

LAVENDER[®]

Since 1995

mmjpa
magazine
OF THE
2016 YEAR
MINNESOTA MAGAZINE & PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION

Summer

HOME & GARDEN ISSUE

Senior Living, Outdoor Fires, Cockadoodledoo, and Pools

573

LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM
MINNESOTA'S GLBT MAGAZINE
MAY 11-24, 2017

Available on the
App Store
x 16,229

DOWNLOAD THIS
ISSUE ON THE
LAVENDER APP



JOIN 83K OF
US ON TWITTER
@BIGGAYNEWS



NEXT LAVENDER'S
SCORE THURSDAY: 05/18/17
AT AC HOTEL MINNEAPOLIS



NEXT LAVENDER'S
FIRST THURSDAY: 06/01/17 AT
THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF MPLS

LIFE IS
in the moments we share.

What's not to love about Door County's 19 welcoming communities? Filled with thousands of acres of cherry orchards, surrounded by 300 miles of shoreline and rooted in deep maritime history, there's so much to see, taste and experience together on your trip. Fall in love with Door County.

1 (800) 52-RELAX (73529) | DOORCOUNTY.COM



live life well





Voted best patio outdoor dining.

Call for reservations
651.224.5715

Located in the Historic Cathedral Hill District

W.A.
FROST
AND
COMPANY

374 Selby Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102 | 651-224-5715 | WAFrost.com



CONTENTS

LAVENDER

FEATURE: HOME & GARDEN

- 34** A Mile in My Pool
- 38** The Elements of Outdoor Living
- 42** Decorating at Cockadoodledoo
- 46** The Old Mill Stream

OUR LAVENDER

- 8** From the Editor
- 10** A Word in Edgewise
- 12** Lavender Lens
- 29** Lavender Lens

OUR SCENE

- 18** Arts: Spotlight
- 24** A Day in the Life: Robyn Dochterman
- 26** Travel: Winnipeg

OUR LIVES

- 30** Leather Life

OUR AFFAIRS

- 32** Books

OUR HOMES

- 50** Ride Review

OUR RESOURCES

- 54** The Network
- 55** Classifieds
- 56** Community Connection

OUR VOICES

- 57** Dateland
- 57** Trolin
- 58** Skirting the Issues



Page 46: Photo courtesy of Abitibi, Page 18: Photo by Dan Norman, Page 30: Photo by Steve Lenius, Page 50: Photo by Randy Stern.

ONLINE



Online Magazine



Prizes




LavenderMagazine.com

ON THE COVER

Summer gives us all sorts of opportunities to enjoy the outside as an extension of our homes.
Photo by CC Photo Arts

Available on www.LavenderMagazine.com: Our Online Magazine, read it on your computer, iPad, iPhone, or DROID. Prizes, register to win. Exclusive content only online, not in print.

*Integrity
Experience
Results*



JERRY A. BURG
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Over 20 Years Experience in:
Family Law | Criminal Defense
Employment Law

3009 Holmes Ave. S. • Minneapolis
(612) 822-0865
www.jerryaburg.com

**EXPERIENCE
THE ART
OF A BETTER WAX**

WAXING THE CITY ALSO OFFERS TWO
INCREDIBLE MALE CEROLOGISTS.

JEREMY
AT WAXING THE CITY
ROSEVILLE
612-504-1110

NOAH
AT WAXING THE CITY
RICHFIELD
612-404-1916

YOUR PREFERRED MALE BRAZILIAN PROVIDER.
9 TWIN CITIES LOCATIONS
WWW.WAXINGTHECITY.COM/TWINCITIES

**WAXING
THE CITY®**
[SERIOUS ABOUT SMOOTH®]

MANSCAPING TIP:
**TRIM THE BUSHES
AND YOUR HOUSE
WILL LOOK BIGGER**



Gay-owned

Mill District
DENTAL

NEW PATIENT OFFERS:
\$99 Exam OR **FREE Whitening**
X-rays and cleaning with exam, x-rays and cleaning
Limit one offer per patient. Offers cannot be combined.

612-877-8887 • www.milldistrictdental.com
1026 Washington Ave S, Suite 100 • Minneapolis



Brian Peters, DDS



Get the straight smile you've
always wanted from the
ONLY TOP 1%
INVISALIGN PROVIDER
in Downtown Minneapolis


veil orthodontics
952-903-9484
veilorthodontics.com

- Convenient Skyway Location
- Early morning and lunch hour appointments available


Orthodontic Specialists
Proud PFLAG Member

Call today for a
FREE CONSULTATION

**CREATING BEAUTIFUL HOMES
FOR BEAUTIFUL FAMILIES.**


HABITATION™
FURNISHING + DESIGN

HABITATIONDESIGN.COM

4317 EXCELSIOR BLVD
ST. LOUIS PARK, MN 55416
952.426.3548

VISIT OUR RETAIL STORE:
M, W, Th, F & Sat 10am-7pm
Sun 12-5pm
Closed on Tuesdays



jewelry
home
chocolate

max's

Shops at Excelsior & Grand | 3826 Grand Way | St. Louis Park | 952.922.8364

www.StyleByMax.com

REBECCA MYERS
COLLECTION



My promise to you:

To deliver the most advanced
LASIK technology and the best
personal care available anywhere.

- Mark Lobanoff, M.D.



A NEW STANDARD IN
LASIK OUTCOMES

Contoura Vision
TOPOGRAPHY-GUIDED LASIK

At North Suburban Eye Specialists, we believe in LASIK done right. That means providing you with the best surgeons, the finest patient care and the world's most advanced technology.

In our continued efforts to bring you only the best technology, we proudly offer Alcon's Contoura™ Vision, a highly customized LASIK treatment based on the unique corneal topography of each eye. This breakthrough technology represents the biggest LASIK advancement in the last 10 years. Call today to schedule your free evaluation.

CONTOURA™ PATIENTS
EXPERIENCED THE
FOLLOWING RESULTS
AT 12 MONTHS

+92.6% could see
20/20 or better

+64.8% could see
20/16 or better

+34.4% could see
20/12.5 or better

North Suburban
Eye Specialists

763.421.EYES
NorthSuburbanLasik.com

LAVENDER

Volume 22, Issue 573 • May 11-24, 2017

Editorial

Managing Editor Andy Lien 612-436-4671

Editorial Assistants Linda Raines 612-436-4694,
Kassidy Tarala

Web Editor Shane Lueck

Editor Emeritus Ethan Boatner

Editorial Associate George Holdgrafer

Arts Editor-At-Large John Mark

Contributors Patrick Boland, Kathleen Bradbury, Ellen Krug,
Steve Lenius, Shane Lueck, John Mark, Jennifer Parello, Randy
Stern, John Townsend, Bradley Traynor, Carla Waldemar

Advertising

Sales & Advertising Director Barry Leavitt 612-436-4690

Senior Account Executive Suzanne Farrell 612-436-4699

Account Executives Robert Felton 612-436-4697, Richard
Kranz 612-436-4675, Jory Miller 612-436-4695

Advertising Associate George Holdgrafer

Sales & Advertising Traffic Coordinator

Linda Raines 612-436-4660

Sales Lead Specialist Michelle Ulmer 612-436-4693

Classifieds Suzanne Farrell 612-436-4699

National Sales Representatives

Motivate Media 858-272-9023

Rivendell Media 212-242-6863

Creative

Creative Director Hubert Bonnet 612-436-4678

Graphic Designer Mike Hnida 612-436-4679

Photographer Sophia Hantzes

Lavender Studios Hubert Bonnet, Mike Hnida

Administration

Publisher Lavender Media, Inc.

President & CEO Stephen Rocheford 612-436-4665

Vice President & CC Pierre Tardif 612-436-4666

Chief Financial Officer Mary Lauer 612-436-4664

Distribution Manager/Administrative Assistant Molly Gosh
612-436-4660

Founders George Holdgrafer, Stephen Rocheford

Inspiration Steven W. Anderson (1954-1994), Timothy J. Lee
(1968-2002), Russell Berg (1957-2005), Kathryn Rocheford
(1914-2006), Jonathan Halverson (1974-2010), Adam
Houghtaling (1984-2012), Walker Pearce (1946-2013),
Tim Campbell (1939-2015)

Letters are subject to editing for grammar, punctuation, space, and
libel. They should be no more than 300 words. Letters must include
name, address, and phone number. Unsigned letters will not be pub-
lished. Priority will be given to letters that refer to material
previously published in Lavender Magazine. Submit letters to
Lavender Magazine, Letters to the Editor, 7701 York Ave S, Suite 225,
Edina, MN 55435; or e-mail <editor@lavendermagazine.com>.

For our Privacy Policy, go to [LavenderMagazine.com/
resources/privacy-policy](http://LavenderMagazine.com/resources/privacy-policy)

Lavender Media, Inc.

7701 York Ave S, Suite 225, Edina, MN 55435

612-436-4660 Office

612-436-4685 Fax

612-436-4660 Subscriptions/Distribution

612-436-4660 Lavender Advertising

612-436-4698 NEPA Advertising

LAVENDER
MAGAZINE.COM
LavenderMagazine.com

BIG
GAY
NEWS
1COM
BigGayNews.com

Audit Bureau
of Circulations
Member

mmpa
MEMBER

Printer of Lavender

Richmann Printers, Inc.
920-484-3348

Entire contents copyright 2017. All rights reserved. Publication of the name
or photograph of any person, organization, or business in this magazine does
not reflect upon one's sexual orientation whatsoever. Lavender Magazine
reserves the right to refuse any advertising. This issue of Lavender Magazine
is available free of charge during the time period published on the cover.
Pickup at one of our distribution sites is limited to one copy per person.

IF YOU'RE
HAPPY AND
YOU KNOW IT,
**WAVE YOUR
FLAG!**

(then go buy an Outlander or Mirage)



NEW CARS

STARTING AT JUST

\$9,499*

NEW CROSSOVERS

STARTING AT JUST

\$15,999**



Offers end 5/31/17 or while supplies last. See dealer for details. *2017 Mirage \$9,499. **2017 Outlander Sport \$15,999.

AMAYZING
MEMORIAL DAY SALES EVENT

WHITE BEAR MITSUBISHI
LIFETIME
POWERTRAIN WARRANTY



Every* new vehicle purchase includes the
White Bear Mitsubishi Lifetime Powertrain Warranty!

*Lifetime Powertrain Warranty is valid from vehicle sale date through the customer's lifetime, or until the customer no longer owns the vehicle. Non-transferrable. Limitations apply. See dealer or visit whitebearmitsubishi.com for complete details, including covered components, exclusions, and owner's responsibilities.



651.204.4750

3400 Highway 61, Just North of 694
White Bear Lake

WhiteBearMitsubishi.com

**WHITE BEAR
MITSUBISHI**

Shelter from the Storm

My favorite song by Bob Dylan, this issue reminds me that when we highlight some of the finer things in homes and gardens, it's also good to balance things by talking about giving "Shelter from the Storm." So often, the rainbow community is faced with housing difficulties. Kids being kicked out of their homes after coming out, people who are living with HIV/AIDS and having difficulties with housing, transitioning people who might choose between hormone therapy and rent payments, dual-income households where both breadwinners aren't getting paid equitably. There are so many compound issues out there for this special interest community and too many of them affect where people are able to find shelter. And so I'd like to mention some recent housing opportunities that have crossed my screen and are very relevant to this community.

Clare Housing is celebrating its 30th anniversary and also progressing nicely with its Marshall Flats apartment complex in northeast Minneapolis. From Clare Housing: "The development will help address the shortage of dedicated supportive housing for individuals and families affected by HIV in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro by adding 36 new units. Why does supportive housing make a difference for people with HIV? In a nutshell, housing with connections to healthcare provide the foundation for an undetectable viral load. When someone has an undetectable level of HIV in their bloodstream, their health improves and they are profoundly less likely to spread the virus to others." Go to: www.clarehousing.org

Also starting construction in Downtown Minneapolis, **Downtown View**, a \$17 million, five-story partner development project with **YouthLink** and **Project for Pride in Living** will provide 46 units of high-quality housing

and supportive services for youth experiencing homelessness, including far too many young people in this community. "We know investing in young people experiencing homelessness has long-term positive outcomes for both the young person and for our community," says Dr. Heather Huseby, executive director of YouthLink. "With the creation of 46 much-needed units of safe, supportive housing, expansion of the Youth Opportunity center, and a Career Pathways Center, we will increase economic and education opportunities and equity for young people." Go to: www.youthlinkmn.org

Over at **Avenues for Homeless Youth**: "Big plans are taking shape to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the **GLBT Host Home Program**. We are working to connect with all founders, hosts, youth, staff, and supporters of the GLBT Host Home Program. Watch for more information soon about a big community party this fall, along with a special fundraising campaign to ensure our LGBTQ-specific programs remain strong into the future." Go to www.avenuesforyouth.org

The Arise Project of the Greater Twin Cities United Way raises money to support LGBTQ homeless youth in the Twin Cities. The 2015–2017 grantees include **Avenues for Homeless Youth**, **Bridge for Youth**, **Face to Face**, **Hope For Youth**, **Oasis for Youth**, and **Youth Link**. Learn more about those organizations and how to help by attending various fundraisers or volunteering. Go to www.gtcuw.org/get-involved/join-giving-community/arise-project for more.

It is up to us to build space and shelter each other.

With thanks,

Andy ■

uptown

dermatology & skinspa

p.a.

Education • Experience • Excellence

...with a smile!



Jaime Davis, MD, FAAD

Mayo Trained, Board Certified,
Award Winning Dermatologist



Nadine Miller, M.P.A.S., PA-C

Physician Assistant in Dermatology



Angela Rohland, C-FNP

Dermatology Nurse Practitioner

• Appointments within ONE week • All major insurance accepted

• Fully licensed and credentialed providers

Uptown Row, Suite 208 • 1221 W. Lake Street • Minneapolis, MN 55408

612-455-3200 • www.UptownDermatology.com



Elizabeth Cloutier

PFLAG Member

CLOUTIER LAW OFFICES P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

FAMILY/DIVORCE/CUSTODY

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS/DISSOLUTION

PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENTS

SPERM/EGG DONOR AGREEMENTS

SURROGACY

GAY MARRIAGE ADVICE

SECOND/STEP PARENT ADOPTION

INJURIES/AUTO ACCIDENTS

PROBATE

WILLS & TRUSTS

BUSINESS LAW

EMPLOYMENT LAW

Convenient Downtown Skyway Connected Offices

612.332.5100

Free Initial Consultation

1005 Historic Lumber Exchange Building | 10 S. 5th St. Minneapolis, MN 55402

OVER 25 YEARS OF LEGAL EXPERIENCE

WWW.CLOUTIER-LAW.COM

8 | LAVENDER | MAY 11-24, 2017

*Broadway - Robbinsdale
Animal Hospital, Ltd.*



Quality Medicine
Surgery and Dentistry
for 39 years

612.522.4387
2727 W. Broadway
Minneapolis



**Veterinary
Medical Center**

Specialty, Emergency, & Urgent Care

Peace of mind for you.
Unparalleled care for your pet.



www.umnvets.com | 612-626-VETS (8387)



Origins Eye Clinic
For Health. For Vision. For Life.

A 100% GLBT-owned eye
clinic with a doctor you
can trust for ALL your
eye care needs.



Dr. David Bane

612-869-1333 • originseyeclinic.com
6601 Lyndale Ave S, Suite #160 • Richfield, MN 55423

What's Your Plan?



Roya Moltaji, CFP®, ChFC®, CASL™, ADPA™, CAP®
Senior Financial Planner, Special Needs Financial Planner
Financial Services Representative

2013 Quorum Business Leader of the Year
301 Carlson Parkway, Suite 300
Minnetonka, MN 55305
rmoltaji@financialguide.com

Charterpoint
Wealth Strategies
A member of the MassMutual Financial Group

Call Roya today at
952-769-2126
WWW.ROYAMOLTAJI.COM

MORE 'UM's
PER HOUR
THAN ANY
OTHER
STATION.

100.7 FM + 104.5 FM

RADIO K
770AM 100.7 & 104.5 FM
+ Real College Radio +



Your ring.
Created just for you.

WEDDING DAY
DIAMONDS

9 Locations | NOW OPEN in Roseville
www.weddingdaydiamonds.com

Coming Attractions

We like to believe that humanity is the apex of everything, and that's perhaps true, if "true" means the ability to use our technology to consume every other thing on the planet without compunction.

We have also assumed, until recently, that we alone use language for meaningful communication. Interestingly, as the world's population grows, the hundreds of languages are dwindling. In 2014, UNESCO reported more than 130 languages currently at risk, 74 of which were "critically endangered."

Language informs thought, enriches life, and gives insight into another's point of view. What does it portend when cultural heritages are extinguished, that in our country we now confront and threaten citizens who speak anything other than English?

Animals communicate, signals of all sorts are used to hunt prey, escape predators, alert other members of a herd or flock, and to seek or accept mates. Recently, more studies have been devoted to plant communication, showing similar signals of alarm in insect or human predation, as well as more subtle messages.

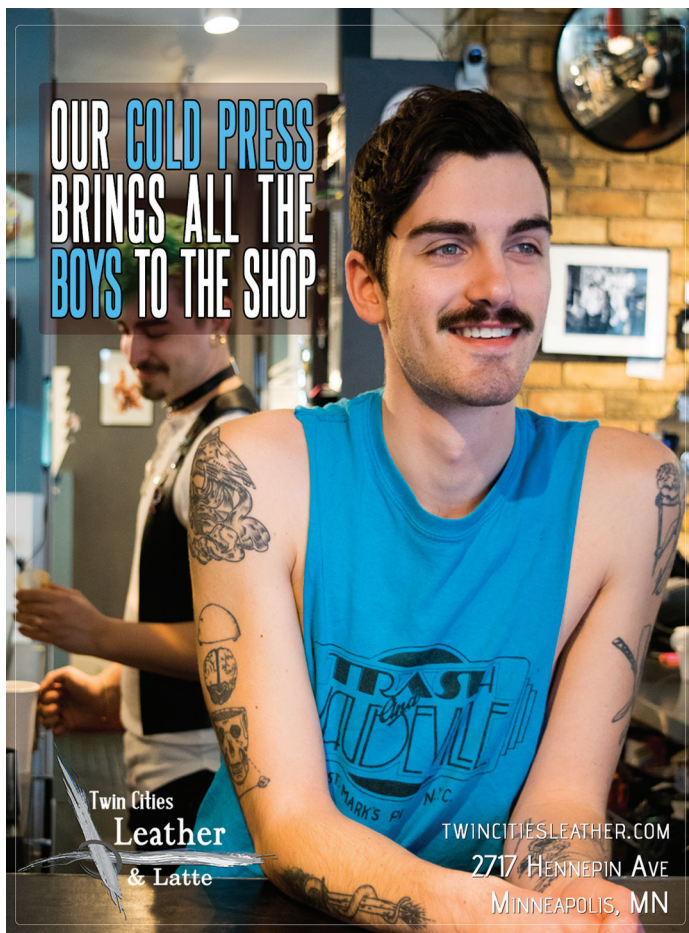
Physicist Ed Wagner in 1989 posited that trees use "W" waves; more recently, it has been determined that plants release volatile organic

compounds (VOCs) into the air, as well as secreting soluble chemicals into the soil and transporting them along thread-like networks formed by soil fungi.

Ecologist Richard Karban, attempting to learn how trees cope with the plague of 17-year cicadas, found that the beleaguered plants responded by manufacturing chemicals unpalatable to the pests. He found further that insect growth was not only stunted by chemically altered leaves on the besieged trees, but by the leaves of nearby undamaged trees that had been warned.

The question I put forward is, what exactly is humanity creating when it disrupts animal and plant ecosystems that have for millennia interacted and nurtured the planet Earth? Matrices of ancient forests, animal pathways, avian airways, sea lanes of whales and other marine fauna? Those latter are now being threatened by exploratory seismic air gun surveys in our insatiable quest to locate oil and gas reserves under the seabed.

I visualize each disruption as a drop in a chemical titration; the vial of liquid remains clear, absorbing drop after drop, until — without warning — it precipitates. Precipitates into *what*, we will learn to our chagrin. ■





Home of the 2 year
24,000 mile warranty

Experts in domestic,
European, & Asian vehicle
maintenance and repair



Call for Service Appointments Today!

612-255-9473

2749 Nicollet Ave S • Minneapolis, MN 55408

www.greengaragemn.com



george
sawyer

Made in Minnesota
with the finest materials
from around the world

SCHERAZADE JEWELERS

Galleria • 69th & France • Edina • 952.926.2455 • sjewelers.com

Looking for a way to save?

You need to insure both your auto and
your home, so why not save money in the
process? Call today for a free, no obligation
look at auto and home discounts
from American Family.



Dawn Bartell Agency
4649 Bloomington Avenue
Minneapolis, MN
dbartell@amfam.com
612.333.5554



American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its Subsidiaries
American Standard Insurance Company of Wisconsin
Home Office - Madison, WI 53783
American Family Insurance Company
American Standard Insurance Company of Ohio
Home Office - Columbus, OH 43240
www.amfam.com © 2008

SUNRISE BANKS

Shouldn't your
bank be as
fabulous as you?

#BankFabulous



sunrisebanks.com



Contact Us!

**Jamie Nabozny, VP, Business
and Community Engagement**

NMLS# 1254862

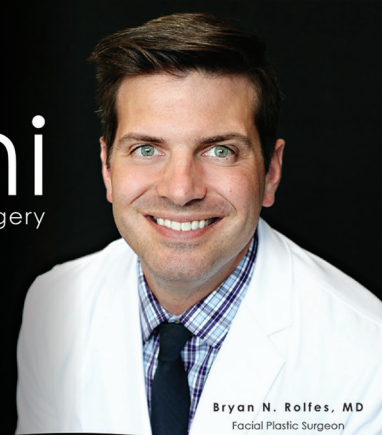
Jamie.Nabozny@SunriseBanks.com

(612) 669-8707

Sunrise Banks is Member FDIC

Omni
Facial Plastic Surgery

individual beauty



Bryan N. Rolfes, MD
Facial Plastic Surgeon

Facial Plastic Surgery
Female Feminization Surgery
Hair Restoration
Dermal Fillers
BOTOX®

952-767-9929

935 Wayzata Blvd E, Suite 200
Wayzata, MN 55391 | omnifps.com

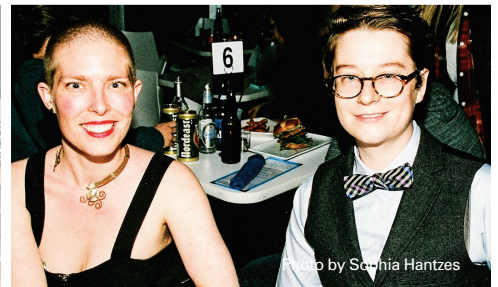
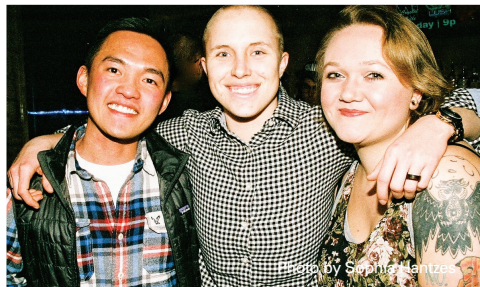
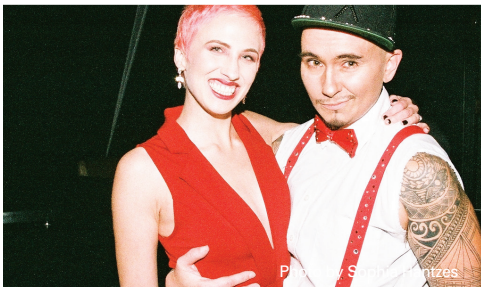
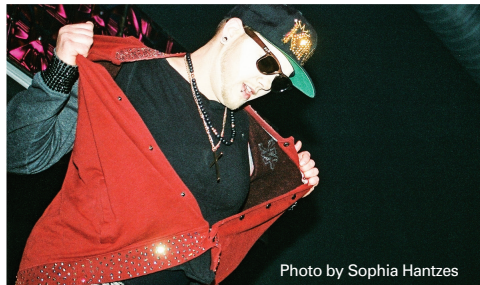
OUR LAVENDER

LAVENDER LENS | PHOTOS BY SOPHIA HANTZES



DEVIANCE TRANS MASCULINE CABARET

MARCH 25, 2017



QUEER YOUTH PROM

APRIL 15, 2017



13th ANNUAL

SUMMER of **PRIDE** KICKOFF PARTY

PRESENTED BY:

LAVENDER **Ketel One**
VODKA

NORTH
MEMORIAL HEALTH



THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

410 OAK GROVE ST. • MINNEAPOLIS

THURSDAY JUNE 1

5:30 - 8:00 PM

FREE to attend!

Come as you are – NO DRESS CODE

Enjoy drink specials and complimentary
hors d'oeuvres.

Visit with non-profit groups about events
throughout the summer.

Pre-register at LAVENDER's Eventbrite page
to be eligible to win great prizes!

EVENTBRITE.COM/O/LAVENDER-MEDIA-12768275633

ALSO SPONSORED BY:



FOUNDING HOST PARTNER ORGANIZATION
HRC Twin Cities

HOST ORGANIZATIONS

OutFront Minnesota, North Country Bears, Twin Cities Quorum,
Minneapolis Movie Bears, Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, Prime Timers MSP,
Twin Cities Pride, Minnesota Freedom Band, Freedom Jazz,
MN AIDS Project, The Aliveness Project

OUR LAVENDER

LAVENDER LENS | PHOTOS BY SOPHIA HANTZES



AIDS ACTION DAY

MARCH 27, 2017



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA HUMAN SEXUALITY GALA

MARCH 30, 2017



HEALTH AND SEX BELONG TOGETHER

Healthysexuals **CONNECT**

Know your status. And be ready for what's ahead.

VISIT
HEALTHYSEXUALS.COM
AND TALK TO A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER



HEALTHYSEXUAL, GILEAD, and the GILEAD Logo are trademarks of Gilead Sciences, Inc. © 2017 Gilead Sciences, Inc. All rights reserved. UNBC3911 01/17

OUR LAVENDER

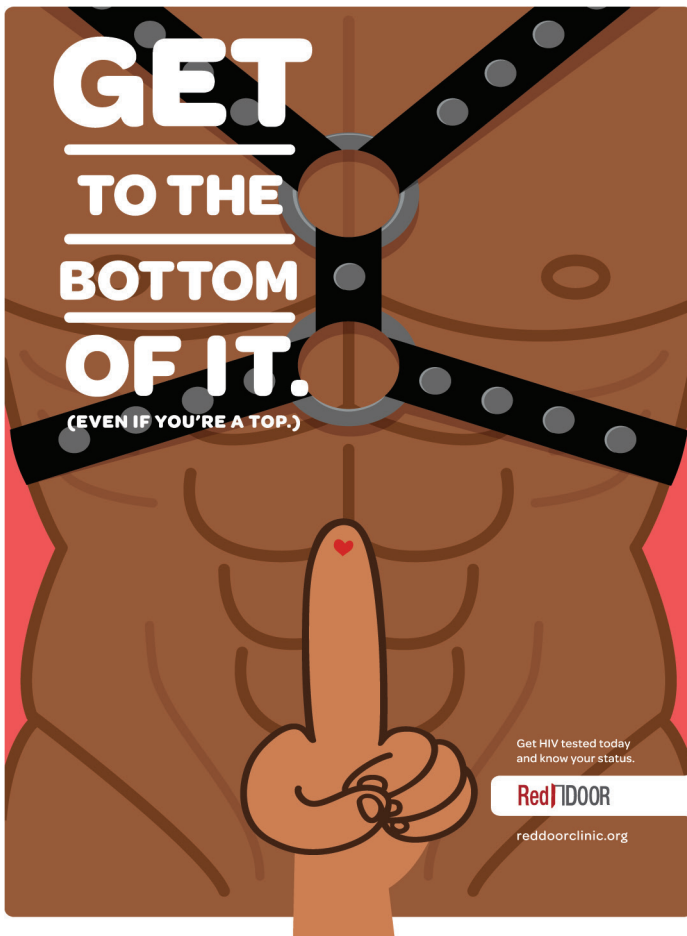
LAVENDER LENS | PHOTOS BY SOPHIA HANTZES



ANNUAL FORUM ON WORKPLACE INCLUSION

MARCH 29, 2017







The Bluest Eye. Photo by Dan Norman

THE BLUEST EYE

Through May 21
Guthrie Theater, 818 S 2nd St.
Minneapolis
612-377-2224
www.guthrietheater.org

The Guthrie has staged a shattering production of *The Bluest Eye* from the Toni Morrison novel, adapted for stage by Lydia R. Diamond. Brittany Bellizeare brings heart-wrenching vulnerability to the lead role of Pecola Breedlove, a young African American girl who acutely feels the ostracism from her own community of color because of her family's supposed strangeness and from a white majority culture that sees black children and adults as inferior. Worse still, her home life is wracked with alcoholism and violent "rage-aholism" that sees children as unworthy of mental, emotional or physical kindness.

Director Lileana Blain-Cruz has shaped *The Bluest Eye* into an utter nightmare on stage, but it sneaks up on you. Matt Saunders's desolate minimal set surrounded by weeds, matched with Blain-Cruz's equally minimalist staging tips us off. We go from three sweet little girls endearingly portrayed by Bellizeare with Carla Duren and Deonna Bouye as her two friends, living in the naive world that little girls should live in, to a world of adult meanness that no child, even the strongest, cannot survive.

Even beloved actors of color like Regina

Marie Williams and Shawn Hamilton, who local audiences have come to know for their wonderfully likable performances, border on the monstrous. Williams epitomizes harsh parochial judgment foisted onto a child and her family. Hamilton, in what is surely one of the most chilling passages in contemporary drama, plots an evil act (the kind you won't read about in newspapers) for an unwittingly innocent Pecola to put into motion. In the role of Soaphead Church, a riveting Hamilton justifies this action as a misguidedly righteous complaint, Job-like against God. It begs the question of shouldn't the church have intervened on behalf of goodness? It's as if the church, and by extension, God, has totally failed the people. A bitter underlying commentary indeed.

Arguably the production's most unsettling performance is not J. Bernard Calloway's powerful turn as Cholly, Pecola's abusive father. But it is Stephanie Berry as Mrs. Breedlove in a performance where violence simmers just beneath the surface. It's a dangerous performance, that on the one hand challenges our will to sympathize, but on the other hand, Morrison/Diamond make it clear what the woman is up against within her own community and the racial/gender prejudice of white society.

Diamond creates a thorny lyricism from Morrison's gritty and boldly confrontational original text. Diamond's drama, *Stick Fly*, at Park Square was named as *Lavender's* Best

Production of 2013. She is a playwright to be reckoned with. Where *Stick Fly* unearthed thorny truths about the black financial/social elite, *The Bluest Eye*, does the same about blacks at the mercy of poverty, prejudice, and the indignities those install into our culture.

MEDEA

Through May 27
Lab Theater, 700 N 1st St.
Minneapolis
612-333-7977
www.newepictheater.org

New Epic Theater has been producing gay master playwrights and classics with homoerotic undercurrents frequently and passionately since its inception a few years ago. Tennessee Williams and William Shakespeare to name a few. So their newest production continues with the gay master playwright from Athens in the Fifth Century BC: Euripides, and one of his most famous tragedies, *Medea*, featuring Michelle O'Neill in the title role at the Lab Theater space.

Euripides is legendary for his depictions of women in dire situations. *The Trojan Women* defies Athenian patriotism and sympathizes with the women taken prisoner at defeated Troy, the fabled enemy of Greece. *Iphigenia at Aulis* also defies with its sympathies for a daughter sacrificed to the gods by her military general father in hopes of victory. *Medea*, his most renown play, is about a queen who rages against her husband who takes on a younger wife. New Epic is interpreting the adaptation by Rachel Cusk.

Director Joseph Stodola says, "Euripides was absolutely a controversial writer. Audiences in ancient Greek theater were all male and *Medea* was shocking to them. The play illustrates a female attack on the patriarchy and on cultural institutions that define femininity and masculinity. Since it was first written, this play has been used to test our preconceptions of gender and accept a new, more complex reality."

Stodola points out that "Euripides was



Medea. Photo by Jill Hyland

**BRUNCH
AT MERCY,**
*You'll beg
for more!*



NOW OPEN
MERCY.

BAR	DINING ROOM	
Seasonal Fare		
OYSTERS	MEAT	DRINK

901 Hennepin Ave. | mercympls.com
@mercympls | 612-252-7000



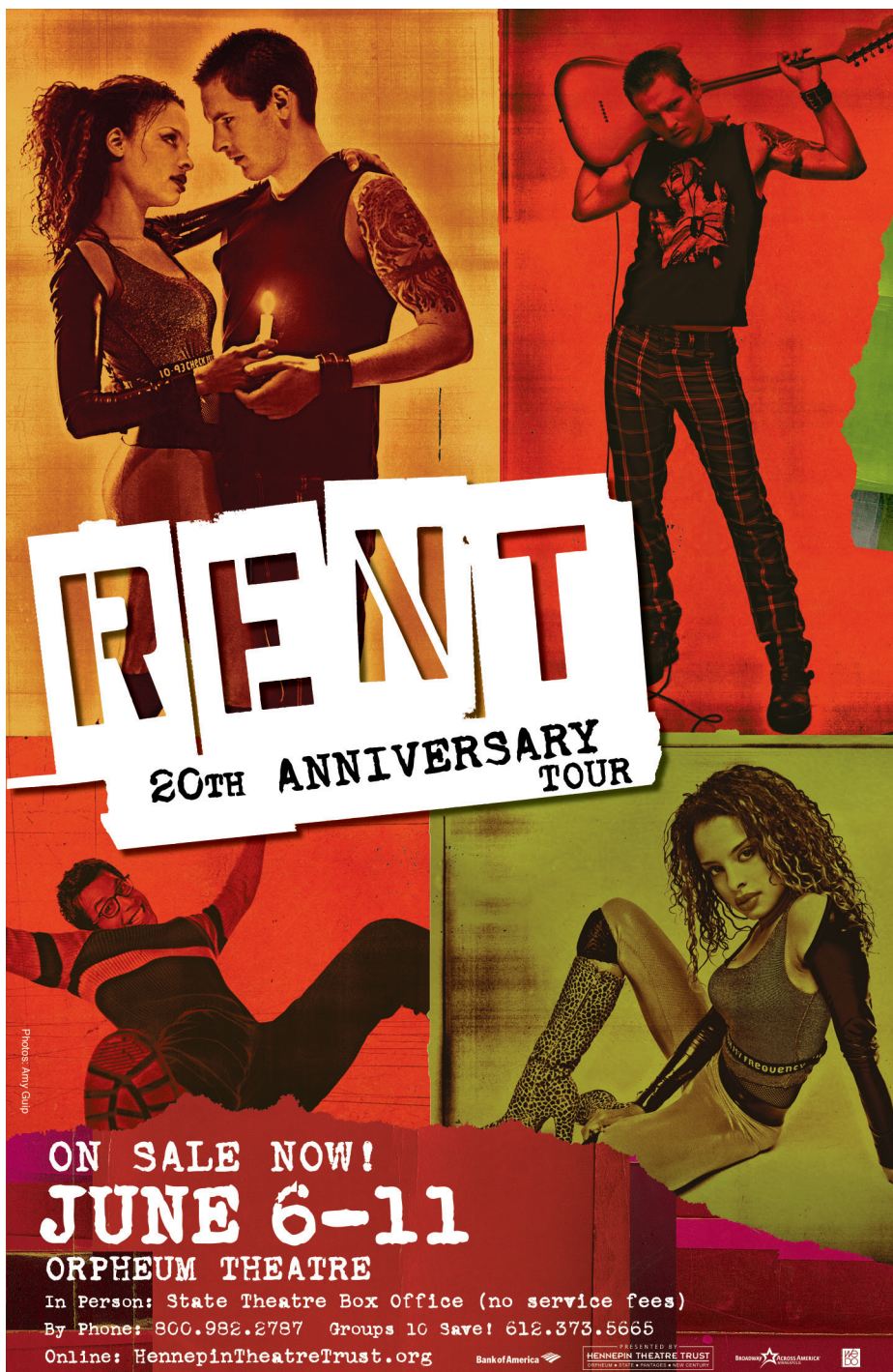

DELLWOOD
COUNTRY CLUB



Dellwood Country Club Welcomes All

You and your family will enjoy Dellwood's facilities including; an amazing golf course, pool / lazy river complex, fitness center, tennis courts, banquet hall, outdoor dining and meeting rooms.

Learn more about booking events or becoming a member, reach out to our Member Relations Director at (651) 289-2388.



RENT
20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

ON SALE NOW!
JUNE 6-11
ORPHEUM THEATRE

In Person: State Theatre Box Office (no service fees)
By Phone: 800.982.2787 Groups 10 Save! 612.373.5665
Online: HennepinTheatreTrust.org

PHOTO: AMY GILIP

Bank of America
HENNEPIN THEATRE TRUST
BROADWAY CROSS AMERICA
100

married twice in his life; neither marriage ended well. He was the subject of public ridicule because of his engagement in long-term homosexual relationships, which were acceptable only when short-lived during that time. Medea begins the play in grief and isolation. Euripides' investment in and defense of her seems to me to come from an identification with her pain. Here, the homosexual becomes the feminist, using his own grief as a way to tap into universal truths. Controversial indeed. No wonder all these men in ancient Greece were offended."

RED VELVET

Through May 28
Southern Theater
1420 S Washington Ave., Minneapolis
612-326-1811
www.walkingshadowcompany.org

Controversies over race and representation in drama are always filled with drama in themselves. Walking Shadow explored cross-gender representation in their staging of Jeffrey Hatcher's *Compleat Female Stage Beauty* in 2012 and now they're probing racial questions. *Red Velvet* by Lolita Chakrabarti features JuCoby Johnson in the principle role of Ira Aldridge.

Director Amy Rummenie elaborates, "*Red Velvet* addresses the nearly forgotten story of Ira Aldridge, the first African American actor to achieve success on the international stage. In 1833, Aldridge played Othello at Theatre Royal Covent Garden, 230 years after it was written, and when the leading tragedians of the age played it in blackface. Unfortunately, Ira's moment to shine landed right in the middle of protests surrounding the vote to abolish the slave trade in British colonies and he was hastily sent away."

She adds, "This play takes a serious look into race-appropriate casting practices, but even more than that, it looks at the politics of being the first person to stick their head about the parapet, rising to their personal best in the face of near-certain danger. It's a play for the chance-takers, and those who either support or fail to support them."

WIT

Through May 28
Artistry at Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 W Old Shakopee Rd.
Bloomington
952-563-8575
www.artistrymn.org

Sally Wingert plays the iconic role of Dr. Vivian Bearing, a professor who struggles with illness, in the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama *Wit* by lesbian playwright Margaret

Edson. Director Benjamin McGovern says, "*Wit* is full of robust, complex language that somehow manages to be both erudite and accessible at the same time. Vivian, the play's protagonist, is a brilliant scholar but is constantly hiding from her emotions by retreating into complex intellectual analysis that cleverly keeps her feelings at bay. Margaret Edson has packed the play with dazzling metaphysical ideas spun from the poetry of John Donne, Vivian's principle subject of study. But Edson is ultimately telling a story about the need for human connection, and some of the play's most poignant moments are simple and spare."

AMY'S VIEW

Through June 4
Park Square Theatre, 20 W 7th Place
St. Paul
651-291-7005
www.parksquaretheatre.org

Actresses Tracey Maloney and Linda Kelsey are featured in *Amy's View*, the 1997 David Hare play that muses on the relevancy of art and has us consider the higher advantages that written fiction and drama sometimes have over film. This play has been widely produced and its appeal 20 years later will likely be to those who are concerned about where the human being in the arts is going. From being overcome by technology to government budget cuts for the arts in this new political era. Hare is known for his powerful screenplay for the lesbian-focused *The Hours*, and for his jolting earlier drama *Plenty*,

made into a forgotten but remarkable film starring Meryl Streep.

BOOTY AND THE BEAST

Through June 24
Brave New Workshop
824 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis
612-332-6620
www.bravenewworkshop.com

This inspired new comedy revue does *not* exclude the problems of the gay hook-up scene. Denzel Belin is a relative newcomer to the region's oldest comedy theater, Brave New Workshop, and he is an absolute scream as a gay man of color trying to find Mr. Right. Prospects include Tom Reed who shines in full-blown high-maintenance snowflake goofiness and Ryan Nelson as a snooty gentleman type who appreciates the BBC, and that doesn't mean British Broadcasting Corporation either!

Booty and Beast is genuinely hilarious but always has a heart, as in the heartache that comes from pursuing love through apps (Buzzfeed, etc.) with myriad people who don't tell the truth about who they are. It also comments on the pariah-status that one may suffer just from being single. And moreover, that some people actually may like to be single, by choice! Worse still, for those who actually want connection, this revue acknowledges that sexual chemistry isn't always as abundant online as we are steered to believe. When sexual chemistry is reduced to Wham Bam, one's self image may be jerked into jeopardy. Not to mention that one's real sexual needs don't actually get met. ■



Booty and the Beast. Photo by Dani Werner



AC
HOTELS
MARRIOTT®


WELCOMES YOU

AC HOTEL MINNEAPOLIS DOWNTOWN PROVIDES A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE TO YOUR URBAN TRAVEL EXPERIENCE WITH:

- Modern guest rooms that are stylish warm, tactile and harmonious
- AC Lounge, featuring the AC Hotels' Signature Gintonic and tapas styled snacks, small plates, and desserts
- AC Kitchen, serving a fresh European-influenced breakfast

STYLISH HOTEL FOR THE URBAN TRAVELER

401 HENNEPIN AVE
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55401
(612) 338-0700
WWW.MARRIOTT.COM/MSPAR



THE WOMAN'S CLUB of MINNEAPOLIS

Weddings, Receptions, Parties, Corporate Events
Contact the Front Desk for a Tour of the Historic Clubhouse

410 oak grove street, minneapolis • www.womansclub.org
frontdesk@womansclub.org • 612-813-5300

A Brand You Can Trust



With just one phone call to Garlock-French, you get skilled Roofing Solutions, Roof Maintenance, Chimney Repair, Cedar Preservation, Custom Sheet Metal, even Solar options.

At Garlock-French, we understand the importance of blending design, craftsmanship, with good customer service. And, we guarantee our work.

We've been up on roofs longer, and it shows.

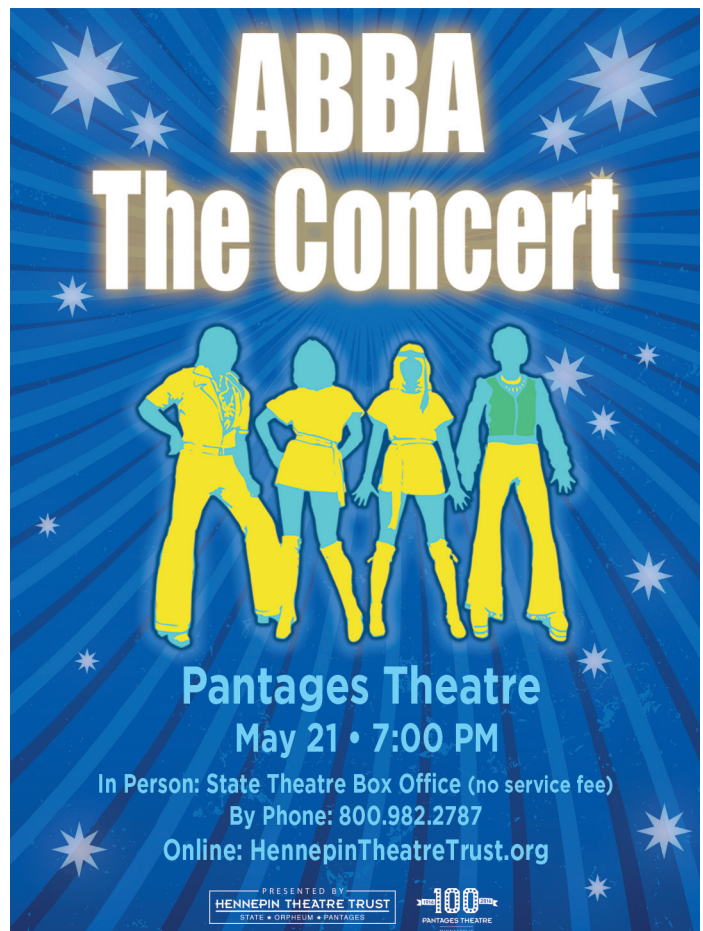
Roofing, Chimneys, Sheet Metal & more

Call us at 612-722-7129

2301 East 25th St., Minneapolis • Garlock-French.com
MN License #BC001423

ABBA

The Concert




Pantages Theatre
May 21 • 7:00 PM

In Person: State Theatre Box Office (no service fee)
By Phone: 800.982.2787
Online: HennepinTheatreTrust.org

PRESENTED BY
HENNEPIN THEATRE TRUST
STATE • ORPHEUM • PANTAGES

100
PANTAGES THEATRE
MINNEAPOLIS

LAVENDER'S
FIRST THURSDAYS



**Buy a Drink,
Make a Connection,
Create Change.**


**TWIN CITIES GLBT
HAPPY HOUR**

ENJOY COMPLIMENTARY HORS D'OEUVRES, DRINK SPECIALS,
AND A CHANCE TO REGISTER TO WIN GREAT PRIZES!

PRESENTED BY
Ketel One VODKA **LAVENDER**
NORTH MEMORIAL HEALTH

ALSO SPONSORED BY
steven scott **MISS Mary's**
HOBNOB
ELIXIR
BLOODY MARY

THURSDAY
JUNE 1 • 5:30 - 8:00 PM

 **THE WOMAN'S CLUB
OF MINNEAPOLIS**
410 OAK GROVE ST • MINNEAPOLIS

Pre-register at Lavender's Eventbrite page to be eligible to win great prizes!
eventbrite.com/o/lavender-media-12768275633

FOUNDING HOST PARTNER ORGANIZATION: HRC TWIN CITIES
HOST ORGANIZATIONS: OutFront Minnesota, Twin Cities Quorum, MN AIDS Project, Twin Cities Pride, TCGMC,
The Aliveness Project, Prime Timers MSP, Minneapolis Movie Bears, Freedom Jazz, North Country Bears, MN Freedom Band

QUORUM

Irene Greene MSED

Greene Growth and Training LLC

Enhancing Personal & Relationship Change
for the Socially Conscious



**LGBTQ+ Relationship
Coaching and Counseling**

Proudly Serving the LGBTQ+
Communities for over 28 years.

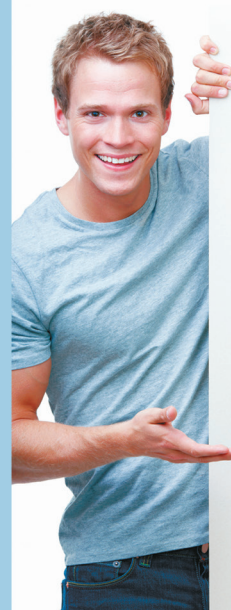
www.irenegreene.com / irene@irenegreene.com / Minneapolis

**BIG
GAY
NEWS
★COM**

Follow us
@biggaynews



WORK
FOR US!



**EXPERIENCED
ADVERTISING
ACCOUNT
EXECUTIVE
WANTED**

Work as an
Advertising
Account
Executive for
Lavender Media.

Great
Commission!
Fun working
environment!

LAVENDER

Send your cover letter
and resume to:
barry@lavendermagazine.com

Q QUORUM SECTION

WWW.TWINCITIESQUORUM.COM

Escape from ordinary Clothing



Formal Wear
Personalized Shopping
Customized ordering
Specialize in hard to fit sizes

8458 Xerxes Ave. North Brooklyn Park 55444
 763 951-2857 www.top2bottommensfashion.com

GLBT owned and operated

*(Image is everything.
 Without it, you are just a blank ad.)*

What does your brand message say? If you don't know, that's where we come in. We are IMAGEHAUS, a design consultancy that works with organizations seeking to launch, grow or reinvent themselves using brand strategy.  imagehaus.net

 **BRAD BEMOWSKI**
 651-368-6761
brad@cbburnet.com
bradbemowski.com


Your Dreams.
 My Priority.

COLDWELL BANKER
BURNET

Operated by a subsidiary of NRT LLC.




Bartending By Drew

Weddings . Parties
 Corporate Events

612.351.2884
 LGBT Owned

DREWTHEBARTENDER1@GMAIL.COM



Davina Baldwin
 763.535.4788
davina@davinabaldwin.com



Davina M. Baldwin

6262 Boone Ave. N.
 Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

AUTO | HOME | LIFE | HEALTH | BUSINESS

www.davinabaldwin.com




Angie Sherer
 Mortgage Consultant
 NMLS #373912
 612.644.9948
angiesherer@leader1.com
www.AngieSherer.com

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

ANGIE SHERER

Have you got your CAMO for summer?



QQ - A Fashion Revolution

To order: Pam_Joel@yahoo.com • 612-817-8084

OUTLOUD
 PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS

Outloud Promotions is a full service branded merchandise agency creating high impact promotional products.

LGBT Certified Business

outloudpromos.com
shout@outloudpromos.com
 952-456-8372




On the beautiful Mississippi Riverfront
 65 Main St. SE, Mpls • 612.331.4544
wildecfe.com • facebook.com/wildecfe

**INSURE CAREFULLY.
 DREAM FEARLESSLY.**



Pamela M Petersen
 Pamela Petersen Agency

(651) 439-8442 Office
 (651) 336-4615 Cell

PAMELAPETERSEN.COM



Your Complete Home Team



Kay T. Johnson 612.802.8261
 Amy Ruzick 651.492.1044
 Keith Taylor 952.829.1584




FOR SALE

NoPlaceLikeHome.info



A DAY in the Life

BY ANDY LIEN

ROBYN DOCHTERMAN

Age:
54.

Where did you grow up?

Near Mt. Vernon, Iowa (east central part [aka not the flat part of Iowa]).

Where do you live?

For the last dozen years, I've lived near Scandia, which is about 40 miles northeast of the Cities. Before that I was a South Minneapolis gal.

Who do you live with?

My partner for 30 years, Deidre Pope. We also have a cattledog, four cats, 20 chickens, and honeybees.

What is your occupation?

I own my own business, St. Croix Chocolate Company, and I'm the chocolatier, which means I make all the chocolate.

When did you come out?

I was 19 when I first fell in love with a woman.

How'd that go?

Well, the interior part, where I understood how I was different, was wonderful. The romance was wonderful. The family part was like a horror movie. It started with my parents arguing over whose fault it was that I was gay, and ended with me being forced to leave college and taking a Greyhound to California to live with my aunt and uncle. It got better, though.

When do you wake up?

Around 9:00, usually.

Phone alarm or alarm clock?

The birds outside or the cats inside usually instigate awakening.

What's the first thing you do in the morning?

Feed the animal circus.

Breakfast?

Always. Cap'n Crunch peanut butter or Honey Nut Cheerios. Dry. With a glass of organic milk.

Coffee? Cream or no?

I like my caffeine cold, so... Mountain Dew. Cream in Mountain Dew would be kinda gross, I think.

How do you spend your commute:

I used to listen to a lot of music when I drove into the Cities, but now it's only four miles, so I mostly watch for deer.

If your job were like a yearbook, what would you be voted?

Most likely to do what everyone envies. Is that a category?

What inspires you?

People who are really good at what they do; and people who aren't, but put themselves out there anyway and learn from each experience. Also, fresh-squeezed tangerine juice is so good, it always reminds me to be grateful for the experience of being on Earth.

Do you eat your lunch while working or take a break?

I usually take short breaks while chocolate cools to the right temp, so I'll sort of graze my way through the day. Unless I've been very organized and brought leftovers.

Is your work space tidy or a hot mess?

The kitchen is clean and calm. My office is a

disaster to everyone who sees it, but it works for me. I call it a visual, horizontal filing system (meaning, everything is on a horizontal surface where I can see it).

What's been your favorite job?

I love working with chocolate and being my own boss, but I've loved every job I've had, including being a web editor at the *Star Tribune* and being editor of *Equal Time* (GL newspaper) back in the '90s. Each has its own rewards and challenges.

Who are your heroes?

My first hero was Joe Torre (who played for the St. Louis Cardinals when I was a kid). Also, Amelia Earhart, Melissa Etheridge, Chris Kluwe, and everyone who works to protect the environment.

Favorite weeknight meal: Go out, take out, or cook in?

I love to cook and grill, which is good, because there aren't that many restaurants within 10 miles.

Most embarrassing moment:

While I was still in college, I did an internship in San Francisco with the Women's Sports Foundation. I'd read somewhere that tennis champion Martina Navratilova liked to play the horses, and I knew she was in town. So on behalf of the WSF interns (and on WSF letterhead), I sent her an invitation to spend an afternoon at the track with us. Apparently, that wasn't even close to appropriate and I got in a lot of trouble for using the organization's name, and not going through proper channels (which would have derailed my plan, of course). A year later, though, my boss made sure I got a chance to meet Martina in person, though we never did get to hang out at the track.

On a usual weeknight, you are doing what?

I often work until 8:00 or later (the later, the better because no one can see me boogie out to '70s music), but I love to walk, watch reruns of *Friends* and read cookbooks. Lately, I've become obsessed with Forrest Fenn, a guy who hid a million-dollar treasure chest somewhere in the Rocky Mountains and then wrote a poem to direct people to it. Five years later, we're all still trying to make sense of the clues and find the treasure. So I like to pore over his memoirs, looking for some little tidbit that others might have missed. No luck so far.

Bedtime:

Sometime between 10:00 and 1:00, unless it's a "chocolate holiday" like Christmas, Valentine's Day, or Easter. Then, much later.

Favorite weekend activity:

I like to hop on the garden tractor and mow the lawn. It makes me feel organized, visually calm, and industrious. Plus, I get to visit everything I planted (before I started the business, back when I had a real life) and see how it's doing. Add some grilling to that, maybe a bonfire and a Bloody Mary, and I'm good.

Words of wisdom to share:

First, be a decent human being. Then, do what you want to do.



BEST BURGER

IN TOWN FROM THE GROUND UP



burger
moes

HAPPY HOURS
7 DAYS A WEEK,
TWICE A DAY!

WWW.BURGERMOES.COM
CLOSE TO THE XCEL ENERGY CENTER & THE ORDWAY
242 WEST 7TH STREET | SAINT PAUL, MN 55102 | 651.222.3100

LUNCH RUSH?
WE'VE GOT YOUR TABLE.

YOU DECIDE HOW
LONG TO STAY.



LUNCH EVERYDAY
11AM - 3PM

201 Washington Ave N. Mpls • 612.767.8855 • RedRabbitMN.com

Flurry of Flamingos Wine Sale!

MAY 3RD-31ST

BUY ONE BOTTLE OF ROSE WINE AND RECEIVE:
15% OFF 4-8 BOTTLES OF NON-SALE WINE*
25% OFF 9+ BOTTLES OF NON-SALE WINE*

*NOT VALID ON GREEN TAG/SALE PRICED ITEMS, COUPON ITEMS, AND/OR WITH OTHER PROMOTIONS. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. NO RAIN/SNOW CHECKS.



CORONA & CORONA LIGHT
12 pk bottles and cans
\$11.99
SAVE \$5.50

**BUTTER CHARDONNAY
& JAM CABERNET 750ml**
\$13.99
SAVE \$6.00



HENDRICK'S GIN 750ml
\$19.99
SAVE \$10.00



WE DELIVER!
CALL 612-871-2500 FOR DETAILS

LOWRY HILL LIQUORS

1922 Hennepin Ave | Minneapolis, MN 55403
lhlwine.com

lakeside
WINE
+SPIRITS

1916 W. Wayzata Blvd
Long Lake, MN 55356
Lakesidewineandspirits.com



Winnipeg skyline. Photo by Dan Harper

O Winnipeg

“How was dinner last night? Did you enjoy the theater?” This is not your BFF asking, it’s the hotel staff, following up with “Another coffee to go?”

You know all about Minnesota Nice. This is Winnipeg Nicer, 700 miles north, but with almost tropical warmth in its welcome. Why visit? Three answers: for the arts. For the eats. And to wander the unique neighborhoods. Plus, the intriguing history, far older than our own.

Let’s get started at The Forks, where Winnipeg itself got started, first as the site of an Aboriginal sacred place (“our own Stonehenge”), then a fur trading post where two rivers met, and today a 50-acre festival destination to shop, soak up history, hike/skate/boat the waterways, catch performances, and especially eat. A vast indoor market boasts stalls for all things Canadian, from bison burgers to local beers to legendary cinnamon buns. Among the food stands, my fave is Baba’s Tall Grass Pantry, showcasing the pierogies, cabbage rolls, and borscht of the city’s many Ukrainian kitchens.

Cross the iconic bridge leading to St. Boniface, where the French first settled (still French-speaking today), anchored by its venerable cathedral, which burnt down in 1972, except for its classic stone facade. Today it encircles a modern church bearing amazing stained-glass windows honoring the Native culture, a brown-skinned Virgin Mary wearing moccasins, for instance.

Its cemetery hosts the much-visited tombstone of Louis Riel, a Metis (half French, half Native) priest-turned-lawyer who led the Red River Rebellion for Metis’ rights, later hanged for his part in the ruckus.

Osborne Village, separated by another bridge, hosts a galaxy of hip and happening boutiques and eateries. It’s hot. But the hottest ‘hood in the city is also its oldest: downtown’s Exchange District, anchored by Market Square since 1875, when Winnipeg gained its rep as “the Chi-

cago of the North” and railroads made it “the Gateway to the West.” Today its red-brick warehouses and stately former banks from its heyday of 1880 to 1920 are home to over 50 unique restaurants, 60 unique shops, and the highest concentration of artists and galleries in the city, plus Innovation Alley, Winnipeg’s own Silicon Valley. Choose a walking tour (www.exchangedistrict.org) to suit your fancy: history, architecture, culinary, photography. It’s also host to Canada’s largest Fringe Festival.

Downtown’s Legislative Building (similar to our State Capitol), built during the 1910s and topped by Golden Boy (aka the Roman god Mercury), was designed by a closet Freemason, a fact undiscovered until 2005 by a modern-day Dan Brown. Take a Hermetic Code tour to sleuth the use of significant numbers (five, 13) in counts of everything from steps to pillars, plus a couple of larger-than-life sphinxes hiding in plain sight.

Up the block stands the Winnipeg Art Gallery, a treasury of Old Masters to contemporary Canadians, but best-loved for its collection of contemporary Inuit sculptures and prints, the largest cache in the land. The museum has just broken ground on a vast new addition to house the Inuit collection. In the meantime, ogle the exhibit of Picassos lent by Canadian collectors.

The Manitoba Museum conveys the province’s history, from pre-Confederation days in the 1700s (when locals urged, “If the English don’t further the development here, the Yankees will,” and proceeded to strip natives of their land and rights: familiar story). Once again we meet Louis Riel, who tried to legislate a Metis Provincial government, and the account of the Famine of 1870, when they were left to starve.

Go back earlier to skeletons of dinosaurs and prehistoric fossils embedded in the local stone. Then visit the Arctic region: displays of polar bears, sled dogs, Belugas, igloos; the wheat fields of the plains farmed

LUNCHTIME DELIVERY EVERYWHERE

In by 10, there by noon.



651 South Cleveland, St. Paul
651-698-0334 fax: 651-699-2303

LAVENDER



Like us

facebook.com/LavenderMagazine



MISS Mary's

MORNING
ELIXIR

PREMIUM
BLOODY MARY
MIXXX

GARNISH WITH YOUR MOUTH

f t i @MISSMARYSMIX

MISSMARYSMIX.COM

al Vento
Bogo Spaghetti
& Meatballs!



Simply Mention This
(Not available for take out)

SUN-THURSDAY 4-9PM FRI-SATURDAY 4-10PM



AlVentoRestaurant.com | 612-724-3009
5001 34th Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55417

JUKEBOX • VIDEO GAMES • 75¢ POOL TABLES • PINBALL
DARTS • PULL TABS • ATM MACHINE ON PREMISES
OPEN: MON.-FRI. 3 PM-2 AM • SAT.-SUN. 1 PM-2 AM

ENJOY OUR OUTDOOR SMOKING PATIO

Singles Pool TOURNAMENT

Sunday, May 21 • 4 PM

f "like" us on
facebook



NEVER A COVER CHARGE

PROUDLY SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1952

19 W. 15TH STREET, MINNEAPOLIS • (612) 871-5553 • FACEBOOK.COM/THE19BAR



(From left) Assiniboine Zoo "Journey to Churchill" exhibit. Photo by CTC/William Au; Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Photo by Aaron Cohen; Exchange District. Photo by Aj Batac

by immigrating Ukrainians to feed the nation; and the Streets of Winnipeg, recreating the early days. The show-stopper is a life-sized replica of the sailing ship *Nonesuch* of 1668 (climb aboard to explore), which put the Hudson Bay Company on the map.

Canada's path to tolerance is traced in the Canadian Museum of Human Rights of 2014, housed in an iconic structure representing mountains built of local limestone reaching glass "clouds," signifying a tower of hope. "The idea of the exhibits" that follow a spiral climb inside, explains media relations manager Maureen Fitzhenry, "is to get people thinking and talking, to spark conversation, not to preach nor commemorate. The angles of multiple perspectives should change your point of view." For instance, such perspectives are those toward the hardship of refugees (from Sudan to American draft dodgers) and the Red Dress Project, representing murdered Native women: "multiple stories, but also hopeful outcomes." To commemorate Canada's 150th Anniversary, a special exhibit includes accounts from the LGBTQ community, including struggles of same-sex couples and "what a kid can do" — such as make a high school prom inclusive.

The amazing Assiniboine Park Zoo, centering a 11,000-acre park, places visitors up-close to the province's northern animals, from rare white bison to cougars; from Buddha-like snowy owls to stately elk and wily mountain goats. Nearby, a pair of Arctic tigers daintily broke ice to wade in a chilly pond. The climax is the Journey to Churchill exhibit, celebrating the polar bears of Manitoba's northernmost outpost. Outdoors, three cubs and their elders range. Then watch the bears' swimming antics from a glass tunnel as they plunge, twirl and tumble within inches of viewers, like kids at the beach. It's almost ballet.

For the real deal, stop in at the Winnipeg Royal Ballet to view a class of these elite young dancers, then a rehearsal (*Swan Lake* on my visit). Folks can peek into the costume, mask, and shoe workshops too.

To watch the ballet in the kitchen, grab a counter seat at Bouchée Boucher, sporting the hottest new locavore menu in town. Photo-ready courses include a salad of wild purslane topped with quail eggs, gravlax, fresh figs and black truffle oil. Three stars right there. Continue with a crostini as big as your shoe piled with white beans, mushrooms and shaved cheese, or a composition of asparagus, artichoke hearts, cherry tomatoes, and feta spangling greens. Or stinging nettle and ricotta gnudi in Parmesan broth, along with fava beans and spring onions. Or sweet-

breads with bacon, capers, and parsnip puree. What's not to love about a place where the staff wears T-shirts claiming "You Look Lovely"?

Chef Tristan Foucault of Peasant Cookery led the local cured-meat resurgence as well as the pickling parade; both star on his charcuterie plate, hailing Berkshire pork sausages and a dense, marbled pâté garnished with pickled wax beans and cukes. His beet salad, not the same-old same-old, salutes sesame and sunflower seeds, crunchy puffed wild rice, and creamy goat cheese in a caramelized honey vinaigrette. (See what I mean?) He's the only chef in town to showcase tourtière, a meat pie of pork and veggies in a pâté brisée crust, straight from a Canadian grandma's kitchen.

Scot McTaggart pioneered the locavore movement when he opened Fusion Grill in 1996; the chic bistro is still going strong, driven by dishes such as white truffle pierogies with duck sausage and walnut cream sauce, and panko-crusted pickerel cheeks aside beet slaw, and Northern pike caviar, among the starters. I followed those with Arctic char ("It was still swimming at 5:00 this morning," swears Scot) garnished with parsnip ravioli, spinach, bacon, lentils, leeks, and hollandaise. Or choose local bison, pike, or paella with house-made sausage and Northern pike among the usual suspects. Dessert? Mascarpone cheesecake topped with candied beets. Fusion boasts an all-Canadian wine list, too.

Era Bistro in the CNHR Museum also heralds regional Canadian cuisine. Start with the carrot fries (you'd be nuts not to): crispy spears veiled in a filmy beer batter. Proceed to a creamy chowder of potato, leek, and goldeye (that's a local fish, folks), or the pickerel po' boy, or the new-era poutine in a creamy corn and dill gravy. Yes!

Clementine is the hot new bistro in the Exchange District. Prepare to stand in line (it's worth it) for your chance at smoked Arctic char with all the trimmings; a braised bacon Benedict; or coconut curry mushroom toast. Manitoba goldeye shines again in gnocchi floating in crab and mussel broth and dotted with whitefish caviar at nearby deer + almond.

Head to Osborne Village's casual Nuburger for health-forward patties like the Stamos: roasted pepper and basil aioli, feta, tomato, sprouts, and more. (Tip: Upgrade to bison.) Capital Grill, near the zoo, snagged a former Four Seasons Hotel chef to head the kitchen, starring a salmon and avocado Benedict or short rib migos at brunch, while dinner celebrates short-rib poutine, sweet potato and apple soup, and a bison ribeye.

To plan your visit, see www.tourismwinnipeg.com. ■

ENDNOTE: PROUD OF PRIDE

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Winnipeg's Pride Festival, May 26–June 4. The theme for 2017 is Resurgence. "We'll observe it in four areas," says Jonathan Niemczak, Pride's president: diversity (not only white males); inclusion (reaching out to underserved black and Native communities); safe spaces, through security training; and accessibility, for those with impairments. A cultural shift, Niemczak declares. The parade will recreate the original 2.5 km route of 30 years ago, but pumped up to over 100 entries (www.pridewinnipeg.com).

Even bigger news: mark your calendars for the triple treat in July 2020, when Winnipeg will host the North American Out Games, Canada Pride, and the annual local festivities, to be held simultaneously at The Forks. Expect the city's two gay clubs to be SRO: venerable Club 200, a downtown bar, and nearby Fame, attracting a younger crowd at weekend dance parties. Reel Pride, the annual film festival, occurs in October.

OUR LAVENDER

LAVENDER LENS



Photo by Andrew Sonnek

DINING OUT FOR LIFE

APRIL 27



Photo by Andrew Sonnek



Photo by Andrew Sonnek



Photo by Jeff Geisinger



Photo by Roosevelt Cavallos

ICEHOUSE

MPLS. MINN.

2528 NICOLLET AVE SOUTH • 612.276.6523
LUNCH, BRUNCH, DINNER AND LATE NIGHT • MUSIC 7 DAYS/WEEK

HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS

FOOD: 2:30-5pm Everyday, 10-12pm Mon-Sat,
9:00-Midnight Sun.

DRINK: Monday-Friday 2:30pm-6pm and
Sunday 9pm-1am. \$2 OFF all Tap Beers,
Rail Drinks, and House Wines.



UP TO 25 TRIPS *per DAY*
LARGEST OF THE
APOSTLE ISLANDS
LAKE SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN

THERE IS A REASON
— *your* —
COMPASS
— *points* —
NORTH



MOONINGWANEHANNING-MINIS



MADELINE ISLAND
→ *come over.*

MADFERRY.COM MADELINEISLAND.COM
HIKE-BIKE-SWIM-KAYAK-RELAX-CANOE
20 MINUTES BETWEEN BAYFIELD AND MADELINE ISLAND

MN Leather Pride Weekend



Three new leather titleholders were sashed on Saturday evening, April 1, at the Minnesota Leather Pride Weekend 2017 contest held at The Saloon. Other weekend events, including a meet and greet, a cigar social, and several Kink U sessions, were held at The Saloon, eagleBolt Bar, and LUSH. Contest emcees were Karri Plowman, of Twin Cities Leather & Latte, and Nocturna Lee Mission.

Aside from being a great show, this year's contest made a political statement by promoting radical gender equality. How? By prohibiting all contestants and anyone else appearing onstage, of any gender, from displaying bare nipples. Pasties, or at least X's made of duct tape, were the order of the evening.

Competing for Minnesota Leather Sir 2017 were contestants Dickie and Dylan; for Minnesota Leatherboy 2017, Pugsley and Rilee; and for Ms Minnesota Leather Pride 2017, Edie and Mikayla. At the climax of the evening, the new titleholders were announced: Mikayla (Ms), Dylan (Sir), and Pugsley (boy).



Left column, from top: New titleholders Mikayla, Dylan, and Pugsley; Rilee performing his fantasy; left, Dickie during contestant introduction; right, Mikayla answering a pop question. Middle column, from top: Left, Pugsley, and right, Edie, during the speech portion of the contest; Dylan, at the moment of his sashing.



GOOD LUCK TO MINNESOTA'S IML COMPETITORS

Minnesota's leather community will be represented at this year's International Mr. Leather (IML) contest weekend by Ryan Coit, Mr. Twin Cities Leather 2017, and Eric "Pup Omega" Stafford, Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2017. IML 2017 takes place Memorial Day weekend (Thursday, May 25 to Monday, May 29) in Chicago.

Leatherpedia

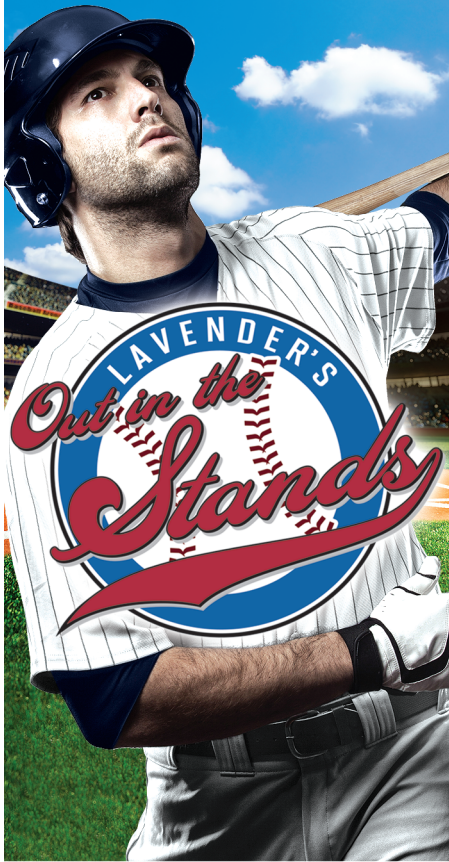
LEATHERPEDIA.ORG LAUNCHES

Leatherpedia.org is a new online wiki-based encyclopedia for the leather community. The site is collaborative, which means anyone — that includes you, dear reader — can create or edit encyclopedia entries, just like Wikipedia.

Leatherpedia.org has been created by Patrick Smith, International Mr. Leather 2015. Says Smith, "This is a resource I would have killed for when I first started out in the community. I remember all too well trying to research various clubs and events, find out who's connected to whom, and having to go all over the internet for it. Now, the goal is for it to be all in one place." Smith envisions Leatherpedia.org as "an online collaboration of community members worldwide working to create a living, breathing history of the leather community."

At this writing there are 82 entries and counting. Go to Leatherpedia.org and check them out. Then contribute your own entry. ■

**THE ULTIMATE BIG LEAGUE
EXPERIENCE IS BACK!**



SATURDAY, JULY 8 • 1:10PM
TARGET FIELD • MINNEAPOLIS
MINNESOTA TWINS vs. BALTIMORE ORIOLES
FROM THE BUDWEISER ROOF DECK

EXCLUSIVE TO LAVENDER'S OUT IN THE STANDS,
the Budweiser Roof Deck is the ultimate
Minnesota Twins outdoor experience! It
accommodates up to 300 people, and offers
cash bar, concessions and a large fire pit.

TICKETS: \$49 per person
(includes game ticket and postgame party)

Ticket sales benefit Perfect Storm Softball
Team, Minneapolis Movie Bears,
Stonewall Kickball & TC Saints

PURCHASE TICKETS AT
LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM/
OUTINTHESTANDS



CHINA INSTITUTE
OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE
EST. 1995

1033 Grand Ave | St. Paul, MN 55105
☎ 651 222 1200

We offer complete healthcare in
Traditional Chinese Medicine

Acupuncture & Chinese Herbs

As well as cupping therapy,
moxibustion,
dietary recommendations
and more.

www.chinainstitute.com



BAYFIELD in BLOOM
SATURDAY, JUNE 3
BAYFIELD GARDEN TOUR

FESTIVAL of ARTS & GALLERY TOUR

July 15 & 16, 2017

In addition to a unique selection of fine art
& craft on display in Memorial Park, a dozen
local galleries & studios open their doors for the
weekend, offering tours, demos & workshops.

New! In celebration of LAKE SUPERIOR DAY,
artists who use materials sourced from the Big Lake
will be highlighted in the festival directory.

Visit BAYFIELD.ORG/FOA
for more information



BAYFIELD
and the apostle islands

Order your FREE Visitor Guide at BAYFIELD.ORG. Or call 715.779.3335

MEMORIAL DAY SALE!

HURRY IN
FOR THE BEST SELECTION
Sundance Spas




PPS
Performance
Pool and Spa

THOUSANDS IN SAVINGS
ON DISPLAY HOT TUBS!

MINNESOTA'S #1 POOL BUILDER
763-270-1180

WWW.PERFORMANCEPOOLS.COM

home.



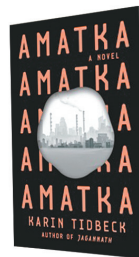
SHELTER
ARCHITECTURE

OUR AFFAIRS

BOOKS | BY E.B. BOATNER

Amatka

Karin Tidbeck
Vintage Books Original
\$15.95



Swedish author Tidbeck has created a not-too-unbelievable, yet fantastic, dystopian novel, beginning simply before spiraling down into darkness. Vanja, an "information assistant" from Essere, is sent to Amatka, a cold, Spartan colony to report on "hygiene products." Odd. Even odder when Vanja begins talking to objects; "Suitcase," she addresses her valise. "Suitcase, suitcase." There is a disturbing underlying mycological theme to life. Inhabitants work in the mushroom farms, while at the same time, objects that are not repeatedly named lose their "selfness" and degenerate into puddles of goo. Language keeps the world intact, but just what is this world? It once was otherwise, as Vanja learns, but that knowledge holds danger. Love, hope, betrayal, and lies are themes converging within this unsettling tale.

Lincoln in the Bardo

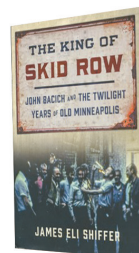
George Saunders
Random House
\$28



In Tibetan Buddhism, the bardo is a liminal region where one remains suspended between lives. Here, Abraham Lincoln is himself suspended in grief over the death of his beloved son, Willie, during the dark Civil War days of 1862. Events take place in great part in the cemetery where Willy is interred, narrated by two inmates and a sort of Greek chorus of the variously dead who now and then disappear with pyrotechnics, going on to the bardo. Others linger. Willy waits, hoping his father will revisit. Lincoln does, and with assistance of the shades, he manages (unknowingly) to merge with the boy. Ironically, it is at this moment that Lincoln decides, "The swiftest halt [to the war] might be the bloodiest." A superb tour-de-force.

The King of Skid Row: John Bacich and the Twilight Years of Old Minneapolis

James Eli Shiffer
University of Minnesota Press
\$22.95



Of all the eccentric characters that inhabited the skid row labyrinth of old Minneapolis's Gateway District, few surpassed Johnny Rex (aka John Bacich) the self-styled King of Skid Row. Bacich catered to and covered his deeply troubled flock of hard-drinking lumberjacks, gandy dancers, and plain down-and-outers with his trifecta of bar, liquor store, and cage hotel. As it happened, Johnny Rex took snapshots of hundreds of these subjects and pinned them to his walls, until those walls were torn down in the sweeping urban renewal projects of the early 1960s. But his wife saved those photos, and Jonny lived long enough to afford the author hours of interviews. These, together with Shiffer's other meticulous research, gave birth to this unique view into a lost Minneapolis milieu.

Age of Anger: A History of the Present

Pankaj Mishra
Farrar Straus and Giroux
\$27



Something terrible is going to happen, author Mishra warns in his disturbing analysis of the probable origins and outcomes of our current pandemic of rage. He uses the pivotal word *ressentiment*, a pretty much untranslatable French term that goes beyond our "resentment," but is like that, magnified, amplified, and seeded around the globe. He expands on and compares the 18th century philosophers Voltaire (Francois-Marie Arouet) and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the former he feels embodies elite snobbism, the latter, more lowbrow, acutely sensitive to the unfairness of his contemporary world. Mishra writes also of the Germans and Russians of the time, and analyzes contemporary ISIS and Indian Hinduism, to produce a complex, disturbing treatise that offers little hope for a way out should we pursue our current path.



C A M B R I A[®]

THE HEART WANTS WHAT THE HEART WANTS

Install new Cambria[®] natural stone countertops in your kitchen or bath and start a love affair for life. Discover more than 140 beautiful designs, including Ellesmere[™] from the Coastal Collection[™], at Select Surfaces.

© CAMBRIA 2017

SELECT  surfaces

651-483-1576
SelectSurfaces.com

 FAMILY OWNED
AMERICAN MADE



A MILE IN MY POOL

BY KASSIDY TARALA

The pool is an odd concept. A giant hole in the ground filled with water used for recreational swimming? Sounds pretty weird to me. The first pool “Great Bath,” built in modern-day Pakistan, is believed to have been used for religious purposes. Similar pools were built throughout Rome for public bathing and cultural traditions. However, it wasn’t until the 19th century that pools became unprecedentedly popular. Pools gained popularity as they were built to show social status and for public use and parties. Today, swimming pools are no foreign concept. From indoor pools to in-ground pools to full-blown water parks, pools are a big part of American culture. So why not bring the joy and sociability of a pool to your home?

The people at Performance Pool & Spa understand the at-home pool craze that has taken over the desires of homeowners nationwide, which is why they are willing to help with every step of the process of designing and installing your dream pool. Almost all properties can accommodate a swimming pool in their backyards, and with the help of Performance

Pool & Spa’s engineering department, the size and type of pool can be determined on-site. “One of our pool professionals can easily determine whether or not they can get a swimming pool in your backyard. A few simple questions and some quick research often verifies the possibility,” says Performance Pool & Spa’s lead sales consultant Nik Hawley.

Photo by CC Photo Arts



WELCOME TO THE BLOOM SHOW.

BloomStruck® is the one-of-a-kind reblooming garden hydrangea that never ceases to impress. From spring to fall get gorgeous colorful blooms with minimal maintenance.

experience life in full bloom™

©2017 Endless Summer Bailey Nurseries, Inc.

BloomStruck®

Endless
Summer
hydrangeas



Photos by CC Photo Arts

When considering installing a pool, research is the best way to begin the process. You should consider the overall goal you have for your space, and then a free on-site consultation with one of Performance Pool & Spa's professionals can begin the designing process. An aspect of pool installation to consider is cost, but thanks to the increasing efficiency of pool pumps, heaters, and covering systems, owning a pool has never been easier. The cost of operation is significantly lower than it has been in past years, and the on-going maintenance is close to none with the help of automatic cleaners.

When choosing the type of pool that you'd like to install, the possibilities truly are endless. "The sky is the limit. From rectangle to kidney to completely custom free-form pools, we offer it all. Depending on the features that are important to the customer, we typically have a great recommendation for what will work best with their goals," says Hawley.

Currently, rectangular pools are a popular choice for customers of Performance Pool & Spa, which is likely due to the fact that rectangu-

"When choosing the type of pool that you'd like to install, the possibilities truly are endless. The sky is the limit. From rectangle to kidney to completely custom free-form pools, we offer it all."

lar pools use under-track automatic safety covers. This helps with heat retention, water chemistry, debris, and general pool safety. Also, wireless controls from a waterproof remote or iPhone app are popular features of the majority of pools installed.

Additionally, Hawley says that some concrete is always necessary to install surrounding a pool, regardless of size, shape, or location. Some projects lead to simple yard restoration while others expand into elaborate pool-scapes that incorporate retaining walls, planting beds, water features, and more. This can typically be decided throughout the process of installing a pool, but it can also be incorporated at the start of the process while designing a custom pool. "It all starts with a phone call or email inquiry. Whether it's simply looking for a budget or getting ready to enter drafting design, we are happy to help everyone out," Hawley says.

The professionals of Performance Pool & Spa can be reached at 763-270-1180 or www.performancepools.com. Locations throughout Minnesota can be found on this website as well, or you can always schedule an on-

site meeting for a professional to come to you.

Regardless of what a pool means to you (religion, social status, entertainment, or simply fun), the staff of Performance Pool & Spa are able to help you find the perfect pool to fit your landscape and your lifestyle. From traditional rectangles to custom-designed free-form pools, the options at Performance Pool & Spa are endless. So go ahead. Dig a large hole in the ground, fill it with water, and invite the neighbors over to enjoy the odd, yet incredibly appealing concept that is the swimming pool. Once you install your own pool, you'll never want to dry off. ■



ROELOFS

REMODELING & RENOVATION

MARVIN
Windows and Doors
Built around you.

License No. 1095

Building Beautiful Homes for 40 Years
One Room at a Time!

*Visionary remodels turn lifestyles into home style...
Three generations of Roelofs bringing dreams to life...*

For remodeling and renovation around Minnetonka,
South Minneapolis, Lake Minnetonka, Lake Harriet
and Lake Calhoun, call (952) 512-0110.

WWW.ROELOFSREMODELING.COM

NEED DIRT? CALL

DALE GREEN COMPANY

- Pulverized & Screened Soils
- Black Dirt & Peat
- Custom Mixtures
- Residential & Commercial
- Over 70 years In The Business
- Delivery or Pick-up In Our Pit

www.dalegreencompany.com
**Quality Soils Since The 1930's*

952-894-5812

Serving The Entire Metro
Conveniently Located
Off Hwy 35W
1308 W. Hwy. 13
Burnsville, MN 55337

Get a FULL YEAR of LAVENDER

\$26

LavenderMagazine.com/subscribe 26 Issues at \$0 + 3rd Class Mailing = \$1 PER ISSUE

Follow us on **Twitter!**

LAVENDER
@lavmag

THE REMODELER YOU CAN TRUST

Additions & Dormers / Kitchens & Bathrooms / Custom Cabinetry
Whole House Renovation / Porches & Sun-Rooms / Finished Basements

4330 Nicollet Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55409
612.821.1100 / 651.690.3442 MN LIC #BC378021
www.houseliftinc.com

House Lift
REMODELER



THE ELEMENTS OF OUTDOOR LIVING

BY BONNIE HANCOCK

Look no further than your backyard for the perfect getaway. Thoughtful, creative designs for outdoor living can transport you to a relaxed state right after rush hour every day. In addition to the beautiful, functional materials widely available for outdoor living, the elements of fire and water are more prevalent than ever in design. New products and technologies make it possible to both feel the heat and experience tranquility by incorporating fire, warmth, and water throughout your outdoor living spaces. To guide you, we've pulled together some of the latest innovative products that showcase this lifestyle and open up the possibilities for embracing the outdoors — even beyond our Minnesota seasonal norm.

Photo courtesy of OFYR Grill

OFYR Grill

www.ofyru.com

This hot new grill from Holland will help you bring beauty, warmth, food, and friendship to your outdoor space. The OFYR Grill is as much a barbecue grill as it is an art piece for your garden.

It will expand your definition of outdoor living. This wood-fueled grill features a wide, flat rim that doubles as a hot plate. The flat rim provides a smooth temperature gradient, which allows for a wider temperature range for precise cooking. Fry eggs, steam vegetables, or sear a tender steak.

The OFYR outdoor cooking system includes a butcher block, solid-wood cutting board for food preparation, a sturdy steel grate for cooking directly over the wood fire, and cedar planks to add a touch of smoke to the flavor of your food. Simply soak the cedar planks in water for an hour before use and enjoy the complex smoky flavor this technique adds to your fish, seafood, or meat. Salmon is particularly good on a cedar plank!

The OFYR system also includes a Corten wood storage bench for stylish seating and doubles as storage for your wood supply. This modular system may also include a steel storage unit to transform a stack of wood into an attractive wall. Now that's functional art!

American Fyre Firetable

www.americanfyredesigns.com

As if the conversation wasn't heated enough, place a firetable in your outdoor living space and that's all your guests will be talking about. We like the American Fyre firetables with natural gas or self-contained propane tank fuel options that are handcrafted from glass fiber reinforced concrete (GFRC). It's also a bonus that they're modularly constructed as easy-to-assemble components that fit easily into most backyards, making installation fast and simple.

These tables, complete with glass wind guards, come with so many



Swimming Pools • Service



Equipment Sales • Supplies

87 County Road C West, St. Paul • 651-490-1399 • www.prestigepools.com



See how good different can be!

KITCHEN SYSTEMS AND CABINETRY SOLUTIONS
FOR THE ENTIRE HOME

Showroom Opening in Uptown
July 2017

RSVP @ puustelliusa.com/showroomopening

Puustelli®

A Finnish tradition for over 95 years
puustelliUSA.com | 612 405 2227

attractive media/accessory options to frame up the picture-perfect fire, we find it hard to choose! Select from glass in 16 different colors, designer pine cones, RiverRock or Creekstone, obelisk geo shapes, or lava coals. Swap them out as you like.

American Fyre offers either a chat height or dining firetable to bring fire to your fingertips. Either way, you're no longer far from warmth because the firetable provides the heat with an instant ambiance right in front of you. And if you're looking to squeak in a few more weeks of outdoor dining on either end of the season, this product can dramatically improve warmth over the evening chill. Here's to chilling out longer.

Tempest Torch

www.tempesttorch.com

The element of fire in designs by Tempest Torch is all about welcoming and wayfinding.

Much like tiki torches firmly planted in the sand might beckon you to an island oasis, this product's spiral-like presentation of fire gives off that same vibe. The torches are made of tempered glass and designed to direct the oxygen needed for combustion in a pattern that increases the flame velocity and lends a dramatic effect.

Frequently we see these placed right next to the home and carried through outdoor spaces to provide continuity. Options include short- or tall-post versions, wall-mounted, or a base-free for those wanting to construct something unique or utilize an existing feature. We also feel good about safety in design as the 18-inch tall open-air tempered glass works to prevent the flame from going out during high winds or rainfall and includes an automatic gas safety shutoff valve. Note that the torches can run off attached gas lines or a five-gallon propane tank. The variable flame reaches a height of 17 inches, kicks out up to 20,000 BTUs, and can be manually ignited with the built-in piezo igniter. Practical and versatile, this type of inviting feature lights the way for an alluring evening outdoor experience.

HPC Fire and Water

www.hpcfired.com

If you want to go beyond simply flowing water, illuminate it with HPC's Evolution 360 Fire and Water feature! Perfect for any residential or commercial setting, these innovative fire and water effects add the sound of soothing water and brilliant blue LED lights to the warmth and romance of fire.

If you're wondering about where you'd find your water source, they've got you covered. You don't need a pond or pool to use the Evolution 360 as they arrive fully assembled with a self-contained filtrated water system.

Controlling the three elements — fire, water, and lights — is done via wall switch. For easy install just level the basin and connect the water, electric and optional gas. Then cover the structure with stone, veneer or stucco to suit your patio décor. This multi-purpose product, an industry winner of a Vesta Award for Best Outdoor



(From Top) **American Fyre Firetable.** Photo courtesy of American Fyre Firetable; **Tempest Torch.** Photo courtesy of Tempest Torch; **HPC Fire and Water.** Photo courtesy of HPC Fire and Water; **Fire Magic Grill.** Photos by John Magnoski

Hearth Product, brings a focal point to outdoor experiences. Find your ideal hue of blue as you enjoy an experience that parallels the area's finest outdoor patios.

Fire Magic Grill

www.firemagicgrills.com

And then, you created fire. It can feel magical indeed. Especially when it's the source of food for your friends and family. We've worked with enough clients who use their outdoor grills whenever they cook during Minnesota's outdoor season to know that they're looking for the highest quality and performance possible. One of our favorites is FireMagic. Not only does it deliver on grill options, it allows you to easily add on premium accessories from refrigerators to side burners.

For today's discerning outdoor cook, they like the grill's ample cooking area complete with an advanced heat distribution system featuring proprietary stainless steel Flavor Grids that minimize flare-ups. They also love that they can grill, sear, smoke, rotisserie cook, and even use it as a charcoal grill! The control is in their hands as they go from 200 to 1,000 to bake a cake or sear a steak and serve up an entire meal all at once.

Enjoying the outdoors and extending the season through the warmth of fire and movement of water has never been easier. You can start small and choose your priorities based on the core of the outdoor experience you wish to create. Working with a professional to envision a holistic plan is always a good idea. They can help you create a vision and consider a phased approach and budget.

If you're savvy, available and skilled to do some of the work yourself, there are many options to DIY components of your outdoor space. You could run with a landscaping plan and do your own plantings, or build out the stone that supports your outdoor kitchen area like homeowner Eric Peterson did (featured here).

If you need help understanding how all of the products above would work in your specific space, work with an install professional. They can walk you through product selection and advise you, especially when you're dealing with gas products including firetables and firepits that should be installed by a qualified gas technician. If you're unsure of going the gas route, note that most communities are limiting wood fires so a gas appliance will be more usable and neighbor-friendly.

Here's to extending the summer season in Minnesota and accessing all of the elements, right in your backyard! ■

Bonnie Hancock, co-owner of All Season's Fireplace, is a design and installation consultant. In their new showroom at 6801 Wayzata Boulevard in St. Louis Park, ASF is committed to offering the highest quality brands of fireplaces, fireplace accessories, grills, and outdoor products offered by an array of esteemed manufacturers. Find All Season's Fireplace at www.allseasonsfire.com, @AllSeasonsFire (Twitter), @allseasonsfireplace (Facebook, Houzz) and @AllSeasonsMN (Pinterest).

Make sure
your business,
organization or
event is part of
**Lavender's
2017
Pride Issue!**

Deadline: May 19, 2017
Published: June 8, 2017



Call 612-436-4660
to speak with a sales
executive and reserve
your space today.

Kitchens
Baths
Basements
Tile
Painting
Windows
Doors
Patios
Decks
And More!

ENVISION

CONSTRUCTION REMODELING
AND LANDSCAPING

(612) 281-5183

**SPRING IS HERE!
TIME TO GET THOSE
OUTDOOR PROJECTS DONE!**

**For your home.
For your yard.
Because you deserve it.**

www.mnenvision.com
Lic. BC703348

Terraforma
DESIGN

Bringing life to your landscape

Best of
houzz
2016
SERVICE

952.224.5000
www.terraformadesign.com



DECORATE YOUR ROOST AT COCKADOODLEDOO

BY ANDY LIEN

A store like Mary Poppins' carpetbag. Or Hermione Granger's purse in the final Harry Potter installment. Or what you'd find when you go through the looking glass or down a rabbit hole. Where it seems like the inventory would end, there's something more to encounter. Something even more delightful or whimsical to behold. Something more to put on my wish list. Something to crow about. Perhaps like Peter Pan.

Gerry Seiler has a store in the Bryn Mawr neighborhood of Minneapolis that reminds me of all sorts of literary wonderlands and magical accessories. But would the actual moniker of Peter Pan apply to him as the owner and proprietor of Cockadoodledoo? Is he the boy who never grew up? Hardly. He's the man who grew up, followed a career path to one of our Fortune 100 companies in Minnesota, and then symbolically chose to go to the second star to the right and then straight on till morning. No, it didn't lead to Neverland, but where he first opened his

shop on Main Street in Stillwater.

Years later and having relocated to Bryn Mawr, he presents his neighborhood and customers with a curated inventory of goods that span from vintage furniture and collectors items to brand new gifts and decor pieces. A broad array of tastes for any of us who grew up, but still enjoy plenty of the playfulness that humor, irony, and history can give us. There is a menagerie of animal heads to hang on the wall, including stone pig heads and a mosaic cow head. Coasters shaped

Custom Framing
Mirrors
Delivery & Installation
Restoration
Shadow-boxes
On-site Consultations
Art
Photo-frames
Cards

FrameStyles

2107 Penn Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55405
612-374-2420
FRAMESTYLES.NET

**Early Bird
Air Conditioner Sale!**

Only \$2,790
for a high-efficiency air conditioner
with the installation of any furnace.
Price applies to a 1.5-ton air conditioner. Some restrictions apply.
Must be installed by May 31, 2017.



May Only! \$40 OFF

An 18-point A/C performance tune-up
Not valid with any other offer.
Tune-up must be performed by May 31, 2017.

**Plus, save even more with
qualifying utility rebates!**

PROVIDING THE COMFORT YOU DESERVE...SINCE 1930.

- Local and family-owned for 87 years
- Financing available (on approved credit)
- More than 475,000 Twin Cities customers
- Smart Club™ Maintenance Plan
- 24/7 no-heat emergency service

612-503-8090 | standardheating.com

STANDARD HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
Providing the Comfort You Deserve...Since 1930.

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+ RATING



*Let us help you
design your space*

*Summer
Home & Garden
Ideas are our business*

Premier
pool & spa

952-368-6070 premierpools.com

**COMBINING BEAUTY AND FUNCTIONALITY,
ONE SPACE AT A TIME.**



**TWIN CITIES
CLOSET COMPANY**

Contact us for a complimentary in-home design consultation:
Call (612) 623-0987 or visit www.tccloset.com
2634 Minnehaha Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55406



Perhaps this is also a good first-date destination; head to Cuppa Java for some coffee then stroll over to Cockadoodledoo...if your date doesn't laugh, then skip the second one.

like toast. Makeup bags with curse words. T-shirts advertising Twin Cities throwbacks like Dayton's, Moby Dick's, and Porky's. Signs and lawn chairs for the backyard or lake, a congratulatory dishtowel for the brides (or one for the grooms), or even a dishtowel that says "You can't say 'happiness' without 'penis.'" Mugs, candles, lotions, jewelry, art, lawn ornaments, and enough irreverence to make some folks blush. Perhaps this is also a good first-date destination; head to Cuppa Java for some coffee then stroll over to Cockadoodledoo...if your date doesn't laugh, then skip the second one.

People come through the door, greet Gerry (who seems to know all of them), and ask or look around for what's new. I imagine that's one of the signs of a well-executed curiosity shop. The goods stay fresh to keep people coming back. With vintage items, particularly, there's a

good chance to see something from your childhood that will strike with exactly the same pang of nostalgia as hits when referring to Cockadoodledoo with so many storybook references from my own childhood (and before).

With a hug when I met him and a kiss on the cheek from him as I left, it's a place I'll want to return to so I can see what else he's managed to fit into his shop. I'm certain I will be as entertained as I will be compelled to buy things for both myself as well as pretty much each and every person I know. ■

COCKADOODLED00
403 Cedar Lake Rd. S, Minneapolis
www.facebook.com/cockadoodledoogifts

Serving you for 100 years!

SODERLIN
PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR

SINCE 1914



612-721-4080

Boilers • Furnace • A/C
Water Heaters • Toilet • Faucets

Serving the entire Twin Cities Area.
Emergency Service Available.

WWW.SODERLIN.COM

Licensed, Bonded & Insured. LICENSE #58002PM & 3272MB



Paints • Wallcoverings • Window Fashions



Hirshfield's

Helping Minnesotans decorate their homes for over 120 years.

MPLS.ST.PAUL **BEST OF THE TC** Wallpaper Source.
Minnesota largest Benjamin Moore Paint dealer.
More ways and places to shop for window fashions.

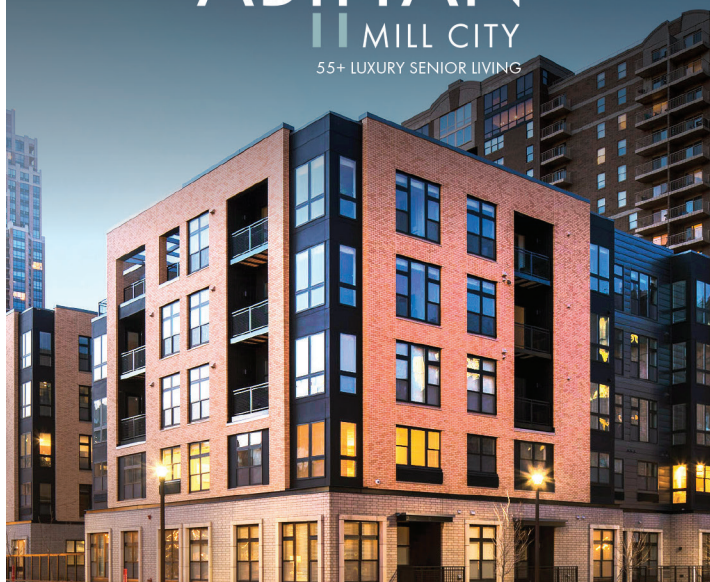

Benjamin Moore®

HunterDouglas 
Shop At Home
651-366-6969



30 locations throughout the Twin Cities and Minnesota
find your neighborhood store at **hirshfields.com**

ABIITAN
MILL CITY
55+ LUXURY SENIOR LIVING



ENJOY FINE DINING ON SITE AT OUR OWN

SMITH & PORTER
RESTAURANT + BAR

NOW OPEN!

**ELEGANT, INCLUSIVE
DOWNTOWN LIVING**


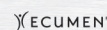
For those who expect more out of life, Abiitan Mill City offers a dynamic and diverse 55+ lifestyle in the heart of downtown's most culturally vibrant neighborhood. Featuring spacious floor plans, stunning views, designer finishes and 24/7 on-site wellness services, Abiitan delivers luxurious age-in-place living just steps from the city's best theater, dining and entertainment.

CALL TODAY!

Schedule your
personal tour now.

612-504-5202
WWW.ABIITAN.ORG

428 South 2nd Street
Minneapolis, MN 55401

 | 





THE OLD MILL STREAM

BY TERRANCE GRIEP

Abiitan Mill City Turns Aging into Freeflowing Luxury

As the current millennium dawned, Minneapolis's Mill District underwent a radical renaissance. For decades it had lain more or less dormant after decades as the world's largest flour producer. That renaissance delivered new life to those pre-existing buildings, turning disused warehouses into loft homes and office spaces, restaurants and condos. And a similar renaissance is energizing some of the Mill District's newest residents, those who hang their hats within a senior living community that takes its name from the Ojibwe word "to occupy" — Abiitan.

"Abiitan's parent company is Ecumen, a nonprofit organization committed to improving lives of senior adults," Tommaso Cammarano, life enrichment manager of Abiitan Mill City, reports. "The organization's vision is to defeat ageism." In fact, the Shoreview-based company is one of the nation's largest nonprofit providers of senior housing and aging services. Ecumen's vision of defeating ageism might seem lofty in theory, but its newest outpost supplies plenty of practice to back it up. "The whole idea behind Abiitan is to strengthen and support communities that

engage all ages, so our residents are involved in giving back to the Mill City area," Cammarano continues.

This sort of life enrichment comes with specific criteria. "Generally, senior living is about seniors living where and how they want to live," explains Erwan Moison, Abiitan Mill City's executive director. "Technically speaking, 'senior living' is a term that means housing, and sometimes services, that cater specifically to people over age 55." And sometimes senior living is really living. As Moison notes, "Abiitan Mill

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48 ➔

Family Owned and Operated Since 1964



Michael Lee
Funeral Director

Mark Arnold
Funeral Director

Jason Schuck
Director's Assistant



David Lee Funeral Home
& Cremation Services

952-473-5577

www.davidleefuneralhome.com

1220 East Wayzata Boulevard
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391

Where Service is Tradition.



Aging isn't easy. Caregiving doesn't need to be hard.

If a loved one is getting older and needs care, Right at Home offers services for almost any situation. Our in-home care lets loved ones enjoy life in the comfort of a familiar environment. And it lets you concentrate on caring instead of caregiving. Give us a call and let us develop a Custom Care Plan for your loved one today.



In Home Care & Assistance
952.854.6122 www.RAH-tc.net



2012 Business of the Year



Bob

Paul

No matter how you frame it, Right People. Right Services. Right Approach. Right Mission

It's about time you had a choice.



CHOICE CREMATION

Learn more at ChoiceCremation.com

ST. PAUL (651) 209-0073

FRIDLEY (763) 571-5030

3 locations. No membership fees. Call today for your free information packet.

Everyone has
wishes and preferences...

but what if your wishes are not written down?

Did you know you can record your final wishes and ensure that your voice is heard? At the time of loss, you can help protect those you love most by writing your wishes down:

- Make wishes clear
- Avoid disagreements
- Save money with a well-thought-out plan
- Make it personal and unique—just like you

Call or email us to receive a FREE Personal Planning Guide, a booklet full of information that will help you plan ahead and record your wishes.

16 Convenient Locations

2301 Dupont Ave. S. | Minneapolis, MN 55405 | 612-377-2203 | www.washburn-mcreavy.com
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Last Will and Testament

UNIQUE
ESTATE LAW

LESBIAN OWNED & OPERATED

952-222-7228

Estate Planning and Probate

THE STATUS OF LGBT RIGHTS IS UNCERTAIN RIGHT NOW.

There has never been a better time to protect your family! Given the real possibility of new anti-LGBT legislation, you need to act now. Contact an attorney who can help keep you safe. I have over 10 years of experience helping to protect LGBT families by working with them to draft estate plans and adopt their children.

■ WILLS & TRUSTS

Assisting you to protect your family's future financial needs with a custom-drafted will or trust.

■ MEDICAL DIRECTIVES

Be sure your loved one can make your medical decisions.

■ PROBATE

Providing guidance after the death of a loved one.

■ ADOPTIONS

Marriage may not be enough. Make sure you protect your relationship with your children.

■ SENIOR LAW ADVICE

Gain security in knowing your rights and being prepared.

CHRIS TYMCHUCK, ATTORNEY

Passionately Protecting Your Family Against an Uncertain Future

3 Metro Locations: Minneapolis • Bloomington • St. Louis Park

WWW.UNIQUEESTATELAW.COM

City is a luxury downtown rental community designed for people 55 and over which offers an amenity-rich urban experience and provides care options as needed.”

What’s needed by residents is sometimes overshadowed with what’s *wanted* by residents. “What they seem most impressed with is the combination of Abiitan’s luxury hotel hospitality with top-flight healthcare services, from overall fitness to assisted living and memory care as needed,” says Moison. “They expect a nice building and the location but love our customer service and follow-through. They comment that our staff is what makes Abiitan a great place to live. Abiitan’s employees always want to go a step further to delight our residents. They want to be independent as long as possible.”

So independence is the name of the game at Abiitan Mill City, and the tools available are myriad. “For independent living, we offer a range of 24/7 à la carte services, from simple help with grooming all the way to nursing services,” Moison outlines. “In The Terraces at Abiitan, our memory care neighborhood, the care is included. Our philosophy and approach is based on Ecumen’s award-winning Awakenings program, which significantly reduces the use of psychotropic drugs and replaces them with alternative approaches such as aromatherapy and music therapy. This resident-centered approach provides better quality of life, while honoring each person’s individuality.”

But that’s only part of the story. “Our residents want the modern, urban experience,” Moison observes. “They love the convenience and

community of city living, especially being steps from the Guthrie, the Mill City Farmer’s Market, and the Stone Arch Bridge. Plus, they love having Smith & Porter, a great restaurant and bar, onsite.”

2017’s hottest months will bring sanctioned activities to a fever pitch. “This summer we look forward to supporting and nurturing the woonerf (the open space next to our building) as a neighborhood gathering space, instead of another parking lot,” Cammarano says.

Some activities will prove to be just as political as they are practical. “Abiitan Mill City will be a proud participant in Pride, and we are looking forward to other events like a block party,” Cammarano elaborates. “We’ve enjoyed participating in the Mill City Farmer’s Market last year.”

The residents often find themselves as repurposed as the sturdy structures that surround Abiitan Mill City. Of the residents he serves, Cammaro concludes, “They already have vital lives and friends, but moving here has opened up their world even more because they are so close to everything. They can participate in so many activities without needing transportation. And they are doing so many things they didn’t expect to do, like take tap dancing lessons, learning about Matisse, and discussing Gus Van Sant! We want to share our gifts and experiences, so we invite the downtown area to get to know us!”

Or as Moison succinctly puts it: “We’re open! Visit us, dine with us, and move in!” ■

For more information, go to www.abiitan.org.



LAVENDER[®] LINK

SIGN UP FOR LAVENDER'S
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER!

1. SIMPLY VISIT THIS LINK
LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM/LAVENDERLINK

2. ENTER YOUR EMAIL
ADDRESS ALONG WITH
YOUR NAME.

Email Address
First Name
Last Name
Subscribe



3. CONFIRM YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.
CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR A
CONFIRMATION EMAIL AND LINK.

4. LAVENDER LINK IS A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
WITH LINKS TO EXCLUSIVE STORIES ON
LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM, CONTESTS,
LAVENDER EVENTS, AND MUCH MORE!



BIG GAY NEWS ★.COM

Visit BigGayNews.com for your weekday
newscast featuring Local, National and
International GLBT News.

Each newscast is accessible via computer download, smartphone, or iPod.



With more than **80,000** followers on Twitter,
BigGayNews.com is your number one GLBT news source.

PRESENTED BY
Captain Morgan



AC
HOTELS
MARRIOTT[®]

MAY 18
5:30-8:00PM

AC HOTEL
401 HENNEPIN AVE., MINNEAPOLIS

LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM/SCORETHURSDAYS

JOIN ATHLETES AND OTHER SPORTS FANS IN THE
COMMUNITY WHILE YOU ENJOY COMPLIMENTARY
APPETIZERS, DRINK SPECIALS AND A CHANCE TO
WIN GREAT PRIZES!

REGISTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN
GIFT CARDS TO JAKEENO'S,
MELTING POT AND AL VENTO



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



2017 Volvo V60 Cross Country



What do we actually prefer for our year-round carry-all-mobile: an SUV or a wagon?

Today's marketplace still favors the SUV. They offer more room, have enough ground clearance for year-round adventures, and can seat four adults comfortably. The reality is the latest new vehicle sales split in Minnesota alone favor SUVs, along with pickup trucks and vans, all totaling 70 percent of all new vehicle registrations in the past year.

However, there seems to be a small groundswell of a backlash against the mighty SUV. There is a group of us that would rather have a wagon than an SUV. They may have been considered endangered species, but our GLBT community can tell you otherwise. For example, we are truly split between taking delivery on the Outback wagon and the Forester SUV. Volkswagen has seen a rise in Golf sales driven by the new-for-2017 Alltrack.

May 18, 2017

Quorum Community Leadership Awards

May 18 | 5:30 - 9:00 PM
Pinstripes, Edina
VIP Reception | Dinner & Awards

This powerful event celebrates business & community leaders who are working to create a fully inclusive economy, workplace & society in Minnesota.

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY:
TWINCITIESQUORUM.COM

June 06, 2017

Quorum's 2017 Un-Gala Pride Kick-Off

June 06 | 5:30 - 8:00 PM
LUSH, Minneapolis
990 Central Ave NE

SILVER SPONSOR PLATINUM SPONSOR
 **SUNRISE BANKS**  **usbank**



SEX WORLD
612-672-0556
241 2ND AVE N | MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55401

Lickety Split
612-333-0599
251 3RD AVE S | MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55415

DOWNTOWN INTIMATES
612-345-4676
314 FIRST AVE N | MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55401
651-464-7529
119 LAKE ST | FOREST LAKE, MN 55025
507-252-1997
220 FIRST AVE SW | ROCHESTER, MN 55902

2 NIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA

Hosted by Jessica Drake - Sexual Wellness Expert

FREE WORKSHOPS AT DOWNTOWN INTIMATES
FRIDAY, MAY 19 • 7:00-11:00PM

GRAND REMODEL EVENT AT SEXWORLD
SATURDAY, MAY 20 • 7:00-11:00PM

Both nights filled with industry experts, giveaways and fun!

SHOPSEXWORLD.COM



OVER 15 AUTO MANUFACTURER CERTIFICATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

LaMettry's®
Collision, Glass and More!

THE ONLY AUDI AUTHORIZED ALUMINUM COLLISION REPAIRER IN THE 5 STATE AREA

Bloomington | Burnsville | Eden Prairie | Inver Grove Heights
Lakeville | Maplewood | New Brighton | Richfield

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT **1-888-898-0016** OR GET AN ONLINE ESTIMATE AT **LAMETTRY.COM**

OUR STAFF IS EXCITED TO MEET YOU, HEAR YOUR STORY AND FIND YOU SOMETHING YOU WILL LOVE.

COME SEE OUR AWESOME SELECTION OF BIKES, ATVS AND MORE!





HONDA
START YOUR JOURNEY

Osseo Powersports - Your full line Honda Powersports & equipment dealer.

www.osseopowersports.com | (763) 315-0200 | 116 County Rd 81, Osseo, MN 55369



OSSEO POWERSPORTS

These lifted, go-anywhere, rugged-ized station wagons have been around for quite some time. Subaru has offered their Outback for as long as we have been loving them — 1994, to be exact. A few years later, a European automaker jumped into this all-new segment with their own take on the all-wheel drive wagon designed for adventure.

In 1997, Volvo brought out the original V70 XC, the Cross Country wagon. For those who could afford one, they bought them and loved them equally to the Subaru. Twenty years later, Volvo still feeds the active lifestyles set with the latest version of their Cross Country wagon, the V60.

We were lucky to get a 2017 V60 Cross Country wagon in, as winter seems to not know what it wanted to do for its remaining days as a season. Not only will we look at whether Volvo has the right formula for the lifted, rugged-ized wagon, but we will look at what it can do for GLBT customers who might have a few extra thousand dollars to spend on a V60 Cross Country.

The V60 is based on what Volvo now calls the “60 Series.” This is a “compact” platform that underpins a sedan (S60), a wagon (V60), and an SUV (XC60). The V60 is one of the few wagons on sale in this country that matches up with other wagon variants of other premium compact sports sedans, such as the BMW 3-Series. In fact, one can get a V60 as a Polestar model, offering a 362-horsepower turbocharged and supercharged engine and a lot of nice high performance goodies.

The V60 Cross Country is the personality-opposite of the Polestar. Instead of racing shoes and a matching jacket, the Cross Country is a down “sweater” jacket and hiking boots. We actually admit that the Cross Country is the better looking of the V60 lineup; maybe it’s because of our love for the Outback and Alltrack.

The big difference in the V60 Cross Country is the 7.9 inches of ground clearance. Both the front and rear ends have also enough clearance for approach and departure angles. The honeycomb grille adds that extra Cross Country touch to the V60, along with the cladding around the wheel openings and lower body areas. The V60 is actually a handsome sporty wagon, with its sloping roofline at the rear.

The V60 shares the same wheelbase as the S60 sedan, the short wheelbase version. While it is accommodating up front, rear seat room is actually saved by the longer roofline. Rear leg room is about the same as the short wheelbase sedan, which is still fine for average-sized adults. Front seats are upholstered in very strong leather covering a heavily bolstered design made for safety, support, and comfort. You can also pack up to 43.8 cubic feet of weekend warrior goodies in the rear of the V60 Cross Country as well.

As with our previous experience in the Volvo S60, the instrument panel is actually quite familiar. You can choose a theme for the instrument binnacle, which offers plenty of information using TFT technology. The speedometer and tachometer are in real time and quick to change, as are the other gauges. The fuel gauge remains as an eight-light display off to

the left of the main instrumentation. Controls are a mix of push buttons on the center stack, along with multifunction knobs.

The Sensus infotainment system is controlled by multifunction knobs and buttons below a static screen on top of the center stack. Navigation graphics are top-notch, while every other screen was sufficient. Sound from the 12 Harman/Kardon speakers was good.

There is only one driveline available on the V60 Cross Country. The T5 engine is a 240-horsepower 2.0-liter four-cylinder Drive-E workhorse that loves to gobble up the miles and enjoy the drive. An eight-speed transmission, along with Volvo’s current all-wheel drive system round out a solid driveline designed to manage traction when necessary. That would also mean going off the highway for some adventuring. While it delivers solid performance, it also delivers good fuel economy. We averaged 27.7 MPG in our care, which is higher than the advertised fuel consumption figure.

The ride quality is quite good on smooth surfaces; however, you do feel bumpy roads when they become present. The suspension does a great job absorbing the ride, but you do feel it from the tires. Though it rides higher than a normal V60 wagon (or S60 sedan), it handles and corners quite decently.

Steering is also quite precise and provided a tight turning radius. The thick-rimmed steering wheel is perfectly grippy to control and handle the lifted wagon. Brakes are superb, with solid stopping power and distance in normal and panic situations.

As for safety, the V60 Cross Country offers all of Volvo’s IntelliSafe suite of active technologies. These include features such as Blind Spot Information, rearview camera with cross-traffic alert, lane departure warning, City Safety auto-braking technology, active high beams, front collision warning, and adaptive cruise control.

The base price for the V60 Cross Country is \$41,700. Our tester came with a sticker price of \$50,130. “Normal” V60 wagons start at \$36,150 with all-wheel drive available. You might not get 7.9 inches of ground clearance and the body cladding, but you do get a fun sports wagon to drive.

That is what the Volvo V60 Cross Country is all about: being fun to drive. It can also take on a weekend’s worth of fun to go along with the drive. The fact that these lifted wagons are the prime alternative to the SUV/Crossover makes it a more desirable offering to attain. If you are on an SUV backlash, you cannot go wrong with what the V60 Cross Country can do for you. Remember, the operating word here is “fun.”

Let’s be honest here. If you wanted a wagon with higher ground clearance and a tougher skin, you would rather spend less money on the Subaru or the Volkswagen. However, if your budget was higher and wanted the same amount of fun and versatility found in those two other lifted wagons, the Volvo V60 Cross Country is a superb choice. It still is after 20 years of Volvo Cross Country wagons. ■



EXCLUSIVE LAVENDER LEASE SPECIAL

THE PERFECT PLACE TO BUY A CHEVROLET

2017 CHEVROLET CRUZE \$99/MO*

ROSEDALE CHEVROLET

SERVICE: 877-849-4833

35W & COUNTY ROAD C, ROSEVILLE MN 55113 / WWW.ROSEDALECHEV.COM

24 month lease, \$2,000 down, 10,000 miles a year. Does not include tax, title, license fee and first payment. OAC qualified buyers. Offer expires 05/31/17.

FIND NEW ROADS

CHEVROLET

HARD WORK REWARDED

PRIDE PAGES

2017 DIRECTORY

LAVENDERPRIDEPAGES.COM

ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION

ONLY \$100

Announcement includes a photo and up to 50 words. Appears in print and our online edition for 2 weeks.

For more information call **612-436-4698**

SPRING SALES EVENT

NOW THROUGH MAY 27TH

2017 Volvo S90 T6 Momentum AWD LEASE SPECIAL

36 months/10,000 miles per year

\$699/month

With Only \$699 Due at Delivery

Borton Volvo at BortonVolvo.com

612-821-2700 / 394 & Louisiana in Golden Valley

Includes: 1st Payment, sales tax, title & fees / Leather-Sunroof-Navigation-Heated Seats / \$57,205 MSRP / #11998 / OAC / Ends 5/27/2017

VOLVO

ACCOUNTING & BOOKKEEPING



Karen R Palm CPA CFP
TAX preparation
FEE ONLY financial planning
NO product sales
612-379-1393
www.palmkcpa.com

AUTO REPAIR & SERVICE

LaMettry's®

Collision, Glass and More!

1-888-898-0016 LAMETTRY.COM

- 8 locations - Free estimates
- Locally & family owned

Family Owned & Operated
For Over 65 Years!

HAGEN'S AUTO BODY

FREE Estimates • All Insurance Accepted
Lifetime Repair Warranty

28th & Lyndale Ave. S, Mpls • 612-872-6671
WWW.HAGENSAUTOBODY.COM

GUN SHOPS

Bill's Gun Shop & Range

- Fully stocked firearms dealer
- Indoor shooting facilities
- Training courses

Robbinsdale, MN • 763-533-9594
Circle Pines, MN • 763-792-4867
Hudson, WI • 715-690-1198
www.billsGS.com

HOME SERVICES

Good Stuff MOVING
651-488-4808

Small Local Company
Very best service for the very best price.

www.goodstuffmoving.com

Snap construction inc.
It's that easy™

WE SPECIALIZE IN

- ✓ Roofing
- ✓ Remodeling
- ✓ Siding
- ✓ Insulation
- ✓ Windows
- ✓ Home Energy Efficiency

CALL US
612-833-SNAP (7627)
www.snapconstruction.com

HOME SERVICES

MATT'S TREE SERVICE
CABLING, PRUNING, & REMOVALS
LICENSED AND INSURED

Residential & Commercial Services
ISA Certified Arborist on Staff
Tree Removal • Tree Trimming • Chipping • Stump Grinding
Storm Damage • Lot Clearing • Hedge & Shrub Pruning
Emerald Ash Borer, Dutch Elm Disease and Oak Wilt protection treatments
25+ yrs. Experience
Credit Cards accepted

Office: 612-706-8210

SOS HOMECARE

RESTORATION • RENOVATION
MAINTENANCE • REPAIR

CARPENTRY • KITCHENS • TILING • PLASTERING
BATHROOM • CONCRETE • DECKS • PATIOS
FREE ESTIMATES

Your Complete Professional HomeCare Company
SOSHOMECAREANDREMODELING.COM

TODD OR LEE
612-374-3222
MN LIC#BC-20270903

INSURANCE

An exceptional COMMUNITY
deserves exceptional service.

Steve Wolfson
612-822-1190
1516 West Lake St., Ste. 203 • Minneapolis
swolfson@farmersagent.com

FARMERS INSURANCE

Deb Streeter Insurance Agency
952-853-9077
More Options. More Discounts.

FARMERS INSURANCE

EAGLE SAGE ADVISORS
Terri Whitesong
507.645.5010
AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS • FARM
When you need more than an Insurance Quote
EagleSageAdvisors.com

REAL ESTATE

kw KELLER WILLIAMS PREFERRED REALTY
952-292-6623

The Lavender Summer Garden issue gives you a great reason to call me about your next home; whether it is selling your current home, or buying your first!

cgollop@kw.com
twincitieshomeschuckgollop.com

Charles "Chuck" Gollop REALTOR®

"The Professional Service and Results you Deserve"

Marilyn Farinella
COLDWELL BANKER BURNET
612.644.0451
mfarinella@cbburnet.com
www.MarilynFarinella.com

Anita C. Hill
Meeting your Twin City Metro real estate needs: single family, town homes, condos, lots, land.

651-707-6408
AnitaC.Hill@CBBurnet.com
www.HomesForSaleSaintPaulMN.com

COLDWELL BANKER BURNET

Nancy Walker
Live Well... Invest Wisely!

www.thenancywalkerteam.com
nwalker@cbburnet.com
612.827.9537

COLDWELL BANKER BURNET
Making Dreams Come Home™

TAX SERVICES

ROR Tax Professionals

4500 Park Glen Road
Suite 100
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
p 612-822-7177 f 612-822-2163
RORTax.com

Matthew Pagel
Income Tax Professional
Serving the GLBT Community (and civilized straights) Since 1991

Advertise your business in
THE NETWORK
Call 612-436-4698

Playmates or soul mates,
you'll find them on MegaMates

Always FREE to listen and reply to ads!

1-888-MegaMates™

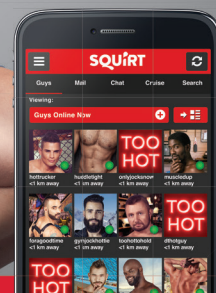
Minneapolis:

(612) 294-9479

www.megamates.com 18+

SQUIRT
.org

The
hookup site
TOO HOT
for the
app store



CLASSIFIEDS

COFFEE SHOPS

Fireroast, a gay-owned community coffee shop. Food & coffee created by a staff that cares! Meeting Space with a gender neutral restroom. 3800 37th Ave S, Minneapolis. (612) 724-9895, www.fireroastcafe.com.

OFFICIANTS

Tony Del Percio, Officiant/Celebrant. Creating personal & meaningful weddings, funerals, and other life celebrations. Spiritual or secular for all throughout the Twin Cities. Call Tony: (612) 385-3173 for more information.

PSYCHOTHERAPY

In therapy we progress by asking for help and building trust. Please call James Chadwick, MSW, LGSW at (763) 780-3307 x.108 or email jchadwick@lighthousepsych.org for more information on individual sessions and psychoeducation lecture opportunities.

RENTALS – RESIDENTIAL

Lakeside Garden Apartments, Cushing, MN - Enjoy nature, peace & quiet. Four newly constructed units available soon. 1 BR, lower units \$1,200, Upper units \$1,700/month. Own Patio. Kitchens: Granite, Stainless Steel. No smoking. bcmanka@gmail.com.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE

STRONG & RELAXING hands, resulting in bodywork at its best! Bruck, MT, DC in South Minneapolis @ (612) 306-6323.

Is day to day tension & stress making you a pain to be around? Let's work together to relieve your stress & achieve relaxation through massage. Reverent Massage by Tony. (612) 326-0518 for rates & availability.

ADVERTISER INDEX

Adult DB Graphics.....51 Megaphone.....55 Squirt.org.....55	Funeral Services Choice Cremation.....47 David Lee Funeral Homes & Cremation Services.....47 Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels & Cremation.....47	Legal Cloutier Law Offices.....8 Jerry Burg, Attorney at Law.....5 Unique Estate Law.....47
Agencies Imagehaus.....23	Gifts Outloud Promotions.....23	Media & Communications Radio K 770.....9
Apparel & Accessories Top 2 Bottom.....23 QQ - Fashion Revolution.....23 Twin Cities Leather & Latte.....10	Health & Wellness Veil Orthodontics.....5 Abilene Mill City.....47 China Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine.....31 Irene Green, MEd.....22 Mill District Dental.....5 P&P/Gilead.....15 Right at Home.....47 University of Minnesota, Infectious Diseases.....59 Uptown Dermatology & SkinSpa.....8	Optical North Suburban Eye Specialists.....6 Origins Eye Clinic.....9
Arts & Entertainment Hennepin Theatre Trust.....19, 21	Home Furnishings & Accessories FrameStyles.....43 Habitation.....5	Organizations Red Door Clinic.....17 Twin Cities Quorum.....51
Automotive Borton Volvo.....53 Green Garage.....11 LaMetty's Collision.....51 Rosedale Chevrolet.....53 White Bear Mitsubishi.....7	Home Services Performance Pool and Spa.....32 Envision Construction, Remodeling & Landscaping LLC.....41 Garlock/French Roofing.....21 Hirschfeld's.....45 House Lift Remodeler.....37 Puustelli USA.....39 Roelofs Remodeling.....37 Select Surfaces.....33 Shelter.....32 Soderlin Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning.....45 Standard Heating & Air Conditioning.....43 Terraforma Design.....41 Twin Cities Closet Co.....43	Pet Products & Services Broadway-Robbinsdale Animal Hospital.....9 U of M College of Veterinary Medicine.....9
Bars & Nightlife 19 Bar.....27 The Commodore Bar & Restaurant.....3 Gay 90's.....17	Insurance Baldwin, Davina.....23 Bartell, Dawn.....11 Pam Peterson, American Family Insurance.....23	Real Estate & Rentals Brad Bemowski - Coldwell Banker Burnet.....23 Ruzick, Amy & Johnson, Kay.....23
Beauty & Relaxation Omni Plastic Surgery.....11 Waxing the City.....5	Jewelry Max's.....6 Scheherazade Jewelers.....11 Wedding Day Diamonds.....9	Restaurants Al Vento.....27 Burger Moe's.....25 Cecili's Deli.....27 Icehouse.....29 Mercy.....19 MIX at Union.....17 Red Cow.....25 W.A. Frost and Company.....3 Wild Cafe & Spirits.....23
Beverages Lowry Hill Liquors, Lakeside Wine & Spirits.....25 Miss Mary's Mix.....27		Sports & Recreation Osseo Power Sports.....51 Premier Pool & Spa.....43 Prestige Pools.....39
Event Venues & Services Bartending by Drew.....23		Travel & Accommodations AC Hotel.....21 Bayfield Wisconsin Chamber Of Commerce.....29, 31 Door County Visitor Bureau.....2 Visit Denver.....60
Events Lavender's First Thursdays.....22 Lavender's Out in the Stands.....31 Lavender's Score Thursdays.....49 Lavender's Summer of Pride.....13		Wedding Resources Burbank Livingston Griggs Mansion.....3 The Commodore Bar & Restaurant.....3 Dellwood Country Club.....19 Hotel 340.....3 Saint Paul Athletic Club.....3 Stout's Island Lodge.....3 The University Club of Saint Paul.....3 The Woman's Club of Minneapolis.....21
Financial Angie Sherer, LeaderOne Financial.....23 Roya Molajji, Charterpoint Wealth Strategies.....9 Sunrise Banks.....11		
Floral & Garden Dale Green Co.....37 Bailey Nurseries.....35		

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Community Connection brings visibility to local GLBT-friendly non-profit organizations. To reserve your listing in Community Connection, call 612-436-4698 or email advertising@lavendermagazine.com.

ADOPTION

MN ADOPT

Finding families for Minnesota's Waiting Children, providing pre/post adoption services to all Minnesota adoptive families.

777 Raymond Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55114
(612) 861-7115
www.mnadopt.org

ADVOCACY

Rainbow Health Initiative

Committed to advancing the health and wellness of LGBTQ communities through research, education and advocacy.
2021 E. Hennepin Ave., Ste. 220
Minneapolis, MN 55413
(612) 206-3180
www.rainbowhealth.org

AIDS/HIV INFO & TREATMENT

Aliveness Project, The

Community Center for Individuals Living with HIV/AIDS - On-site Meals, Food Shelf and Supportive Services.
3808 Nicollet Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55409
(612) 824-LIFE (5433) www.aliveness.org

MN AIDS Project - AIDS Line

Statewide referral service for HIV information & resources including testing, care services, education around PrEP.
2700 Territorial Rd.
St. Paul, MN 55114
Metro: (612) 373-AIDS, Statewide: (800) 248-AIDS
mapaidsline@mnaidspj.org
<http://www.mnaidspj.org>

U of MN HIV Research Studies

Looking for HIV+ and HIV- individuals to participate in research studies.
420 Delaware St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 625-7472
hiv.umn.edu

ANIMAL RESCUE

Second Chance Animal Rescue

Dedicated to rescuing, fostering, caring for, and adopting out dogs and cats into forever homes.
P.O. Box 10533
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
(651) 771-5662
www.secondchancerescue.org

BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

Twin Cities Quorum

Your GLBTQA chamber of commerce working to invigorate, build & partner for a diverse business community.
18 N. 12th St., Ste. 3606
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 460-8153
www.twincitiesquorum.com

EVENT VENUES

Germanic-American Institute

Germanic-American Institute - Old World Charm as the perfect backdrop for your wedding day.
301 Summit Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 222-7027
www.gai-mn.org

Minneapolis City Hall & Court House

Step back in time and enjoy a historically beautiful wedding at the Minneapolis City Hall.
350 S. 5th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55415
(612) 596-9518
www.municipalbuildingcommission.org

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Clinic 555, St. Paul

Confidential, low cost sexual health clinic in downtown St. Paul. Now offering PrEP services!
555 Cedar St., Fl. 1
St. Paul, MN
(651) 266-1255
clinic555.org

Family Tree Clinic

LGBTQ Health Matters at Family Tree! Offering respectful, affordable sexual health services to meet your needs.
1619 Dayton Ave.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 645-0478
www.familytreeclinic.org

NAMI Minnesota

(National Alliance on Mental Illness) Providing free classes and peer support groups for people affected by mental illnesses.
800 Transfer Rd. #31
St. Paul, MN 55114
(651) 645-2948
www.namihelps.org

Red Door Clinic

Sexual health care for all people. Confidential tests and treatment in a safe, caring setting.
525 Portland Ave S., 4th Floor
Minneapolis, MN 55405
(612) 543-5555
Reddoorclinic.org

LIBRARY

Quatrefoil Library

Your GLBT Library with stacks of DVDs, books, and magazines. Check out our online catalogue.
1220 E. Lake St.
Minneapolis, MN 55407
(612) 729-2543
www.qlibrary.org

MUSEUM

Minnesota Historical Society Sites & Museums

Make the Minnesota Historical Society's 26 historic sites and museums part of your vacation plans.
www.mnhs.org

Weisman Art Museum

Free admission every day. Located on the Green Line. Contemporary and early American modernism art.
333 E. River Rd.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 625-9494
www.wam.umn.edu

MUSIC

Radio K 770

Radio K is the student-run radio station of the University of Minnesota
330 21st Ave. S.
610 Rarig Center
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 625-3500
www.radiok.org

PERFORMING ARTS

Children's Theatre Company

Children's Theatre Company creates theatre that educates, challenges and inspires. Values: Imagination, Excellence, Respect, Inclusion.
2400 3rd Ave. S
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 874-0400
<http://www.childrenstheatre.org>

Hennepin Theatre Trust

Orpheum, State, Pantages and New Century Theatres
Twin Cities' best live entertainment: Broadway shows, music concerts, comedy, dance and more!
Minneapolis, MN
1-800-982-2787
www.HennepinTheatreTrust.org

Minnesota Orchestra

Enriching, inspiring and serving our community as a symphony orchestra internationally recognized for artistic excellence.
1111 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 371-5656
(800) 292-4141
www.minnesotaorchestra.org

Northrop - University of Minnesota

An epicenter of discovery and transformation celebrating innovation in the arts, performance, and academics.
84 Church St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414
(612) 625-6600
northrop.umn.edu

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts

Hosting, presenting, and creating performing arts and educational programs that enrich diverse audiences.
345 Washington St.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 224-4222
www.ordway.org

The Minnesota Opera

World-class opera draws you into a synthesis of beauty; breathtaking music, stunning costumes, and extraordinary sets.
620 N. 1st St.
Minneapolis, MN 55401
(612) 333-6669
mnopera.org

Park Square Theatre

Theatre for your heart, mind and soul on two stages, next to dining and jazz.
Historic Hamm Building
20 W. 7th Pl. / 408 St. Peter St.
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 291-7005
www.parksquaretheatre.org

Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus

An award-winning chorus that builds community through music and offers entertainment worth coming out for!
528 Hennepin Ave., Suite 307
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 339-SONG (7664)
chorus@tcgmc.org
www.tcgmc.org

POLITICS & RIGHTS

OutFront Minnesota

Delivering programs/services in the area of public policy, anti-violence, education, training and law.
310 E. 38th St., Ste. 204
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 822-0127
www.outfront.org

PRIDE

Twin Cities Pride

Producers of the third-largest national Pride celebration seeks sponsors, volunteers, board members. Contact us today.
2021 E. Hennepin Ave., Ste. 402-7
Minneapolis, MN 55413
(612) 255-3260
www.tcpide.org

RELIGIOUS & SPIRITUAL

All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church

A radically inclusive community committed to being All God's Children FOR all God's children!
3100 Park Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55407
(612) 824-2673
www.agcmcc.org

Central Lutheran Church

Exploring the promise of God for all.
333 S. 12th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 870-4416
www.centralmpls.org

First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis

A tradition of forward-thinking humanism at home in the here and now.
900 Mt. Curve
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 377-6608
www.firstunitarian.org

First Christian Church

Come explore, be curious, and ask questions... a place where ALL are truly welcome.
610 W. 28th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55408
(612) 870-1868
www.fccminneapolis.org

Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis

Spiritual, Loving, Relevant, Transforming. Find us on Facebook and Twitter
1900 Nicollet Ave. at Franklin
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 871-7400
www.plymouth.org

St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral

inquiring INSPIRING inclusive. Wherever you are on your faith journey, St Mark's welcomes you.
519 Oak Grove St.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 870-7800
www.ourcathedral.org

The House of Hope Presbyterian Church

A thoughtful, gracious faith community welcoming all people. Sunday Worship 10am. Child Care, Sunday School.
797 Summit Ave.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 227-6311
www.hohchurch.org

United Methodist Reconciling Churches

Congregations around Minnesota that intentionally welcome all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
www.mnrcumc.org

SPORTS & RECREATION

Twin Cities Goodtime Softball League (TCGSL)

Join 600 GLBT & GLBT-friendly softball players as we celebrate 39 years of gay softball in Minnesota.
P.O. Box 580264
Minneapolis, MN
www.tcgsl.org

STATE FAIRS

Minnesota State Fair

The "Great Minnesota Get-Together" provides a world-class showcase that is innovative, entertaining and fun.
1265 Snelling Ave. N.
St. Paul, MN 55108
(651) 288-4400
www.mnstatefair.org

TRAVEL

Bayfield and Madeline Island, Wisconsin

Explore Wisconsin's north coast via beautiful Bayfield and Madeline Island, largest of the Apostle Islands.
(715) 779-3335,
(715) 747-2801
www.bayfield.org,
www.madelineisland.com

Visit Duluth

Lake Superior. Historic waterfront. Vibrant arts & dining. Adventure. Hotels and B&Bs. Attractions and events.
21 W. Superior St., Ste. 100
Duluth, MN
(218) 722-4011, (800) 4-DULUTH
www.visitduluth.com

ZOO

International Wolf Center

Our world famous Center features daily programs, award-winning exhibits, and live ambassador wolves.
1396 Highway 169
Ely, MN 55731
218-365-4695
www.wolf.org

Monkey See, Monkey Do

It's late at night and my spouse is on the phone screaming at her brother about politics while I'm watching a video of a monkey getting a haircut. Because that's what this country has come to, people! Forget red states and blue states. This country is now divided among people who yell about politics and those who giggle over animal videos.

In the video I'm watching, a monkey is sitting in a traditional barber chair with a smock around his neck, getting a trim. The monkey's expression of bored compliance looks completely human.

On the surface, it may seem like I'm dithering my life away while my spouse engages in meaningful debate on an important topic. However, just the opposite is true.

I think yelling at people about politics is a complete waste of time. Has anyone in U.S. history ever changed their political opinion after being screamed at for their poor judgment at the ballot box?

I'd much rather talk about monkeys.

The political hysteria in recent months has completely overshadowed some really important animal news that has serious implications on your romantic and political lives. But, this reporter has remained on the beat, curating the most essential news about animal wooing habits.

Here's what you may have missed while you've been wringing your hands over the state of the nation:

Male spiders will try to mate with any female, regardless of species or breast size. This lack of discretion can cost them their lives! A study found that male spiders are so bent on mating with anything with eight legs, they often pick the wrong gal. And instead of making beautiful spider love with him, she eats him. The male spider behavior has brought

up many fond memories of my lack of discretion in my 20s and 30s, when I narrowly escaped getting cannibalized on a number of occasions.

Petra, a black swan, has been reunited with her true love: a swan-shaped boat. The swan and the boat first became an item in 2006, when Petra became so besotted he refused to leave the swan boat's side at a lake in Germany. Eventually, Petra's eyes wandered (that cad!) and he took up with a real white swan. After a brief affair, Petra's new love dumped him and he returned to the swan boat. Petra and the pleasure craft were resettled to a permanent home in a German zoo, and seem to have worked out all their issues. My only editorial note is, why do these situations always seem to happen in Germany?

Why do seals have sex with penguins? When I see a headline like this I drop everything (including a baby if I happen to be holding one) to investigate the story. Young male seals have been caught attempting to coerce penguins of unknown gender into coitus. Cases of seal/penguin sexual harassment are on the rise. Researchers think it's learned behavior, meaning that adolescent seals witnessed an alpha seal getting away with this shocking behavior and decided to try it themselves.

And, finally, let's get back to monkeys. In some populations of Japanese macaques, lesbianism is the norm. What shocked researchers was that female macaques stare into each other's eyes while mating, which non-human mammals hardly ever do during sex. When they're not mating, the females stay close together to sleep, groom, and defend each other from interlopers. ■

TROLÍN, UN DIABLITO ROSA

POR RODRO



The beach, sunshine, a drink...
La place, le soleil, un verre,



This is life! "Happiness, lalalalala!"
La vraie vie! "Le bonheur, lalalalala!"



He is naked, yuck!
Il est nu, beurk!



I am lucky to have a mask.
Je garde toujours mon masque.

Losing People

“There is no such thing as a Human Owner’s Manual.”

I say those words at the start of every talk or training that I give. I do so because it’s true: we have no big book filled with answers that we might resort to in times of self-doubt or uncertainty or fear.

Because of this, we’re often left to figuring things out through our own fragile devices. I call it “reading tea leaves” — if tonight’s moon is full and the North Star extra bright, and tomorrow’s temperature won’t exceed 43 degrees at the airport, then for sure I will make that big decision.

If you’re transgender, not having a Human Owner’s Manual has particular significance. After all, most of us have no idea how to handle gender dysphoria (the incongruity between brain and body) or how to deal with those who refuse to accept us as our “true” (brain-unified-with-body) selves.

It’s the latter quandary that I’ve been thinking about of late, largely because of a recent audience member’s question, to wit: “What advice do you have for a transgender person who’s lost people in their life?”

We trans humans commonly lose people. I can go to any gathering of transgender folks and simply ask, “Who have you lost?” and everyone will know that the question isn’t about loved ones or friends who have died. Rather, the common understanding would be this: who among the trans person’s family members, friends, or work colleagues has chosen not to recognize that person for whom they truly are? We’re talking about people who mistakenly believe that coming out as trans or transitioning genders is a choice; often the response is, “You’ve made a choice about being you and I’m going to choose not to accept that.”

The common modality is that those who refuse to accept us simply stop communicating, hence they become “lost.” When this happens, it hurts. A lot.

I’ve heard about many parents or siblings who’ve turned their backs. Sometimes it’s an adult child or a best friend. Always, it’s someone close, a human who mattered and whose rejection now — at this critical time in the trans person’s life — is particularly difficult to accept or handle.

When I transitioned in 2009, I lost many people: my sister, my best friend in Cedar Rapids, and an across-the-street neighbor who also happened to be a federal magistrate (and as a trial lawyer who regularly appeared in federal court, that was particularly problematic).

Most importantly, as I’ve written before, I lost the light of my life, my oldest daughter (who was then in her late teens). We didn’t see each other for two-and-a-half years and went months without talking by phone. Email and Facebook communications were nonexistent.

Losing my daughter broke my heart. I can’t even begin to count the tears or describe the feeling of desperation.

And then, with a great deal of work on both our parts, as well as yeoman-degree assistance by several therapists, my daughter came back to me. So much so that she’s now pronoun proper and perfectly accepting. It is, as I once wrote, the greatest gift I could ever ask for.

So, my advice for trans people who have lost someone?

As I see it, you have two choices. One choice is to react back just as you’ve been reacted to; because the other person’s closed their heart to you, you can reciprocate by closing yours to them. I call this tit-for-tat hurt; you’ve hurt me, so I’ll hurt you back.

While this helps to stem bleeding of the heart (albeit, the wound never closes entirely), I don’t see this as a good strategy for one important reason: people change. Indeed, with more and more humans coming out as transgender, society as a whole is quickly becoming more accepting of trans folk. This means that people whom we’ve lost might reconsider their decision to shut us out.

Rather than closing your heart, I recommend keeping it open. For sure, that’s far more work and hurt since the wound and vulnerability remain. Yet, staying open — in effect keeping the door to reconciliation unlatched — makes it easier for the other person to come back. This is the epitome of compassion for another human; you’re recognizing that they, too, lack a Human Owner’s Manual and are willing to help them make their way back to you.

I can attest that the open heart strategy works. Apart from my daughter, other people I had lost have now come back (including my sister). It sure stank while there were gone, but in the end, I have these people in my life again, accepting me.

For that, I am extremely grateful. ■

(Note to readers: in last month’s column, “Gavin Grimm,” I mistakenly referenced the Supreme Court sending Gavin’s case back to the original trial court. Instead, I should have written that the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals will re-hear arguments on the case. I apologize for the mistake and appreciate the ACLU clarifying this for me.)

Ellen (Ellie) Krug is the author of Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change (2013). She speaks and trains on diversity and inclusion topics; visit www.humaninspirationworks.com where you can also sign up for her newsletter. She welcomes your comments at ellenkrugwriter@gmail.com.



CURE

**isn't just a four letter
word anymore.**

Researchers at the U of M are focusing on studies to help discover new ways to eliminate HIV from the body. Results from these studies may guide science down new paths to hopefully cure HIV one day – but the only way to get there is by your participation.

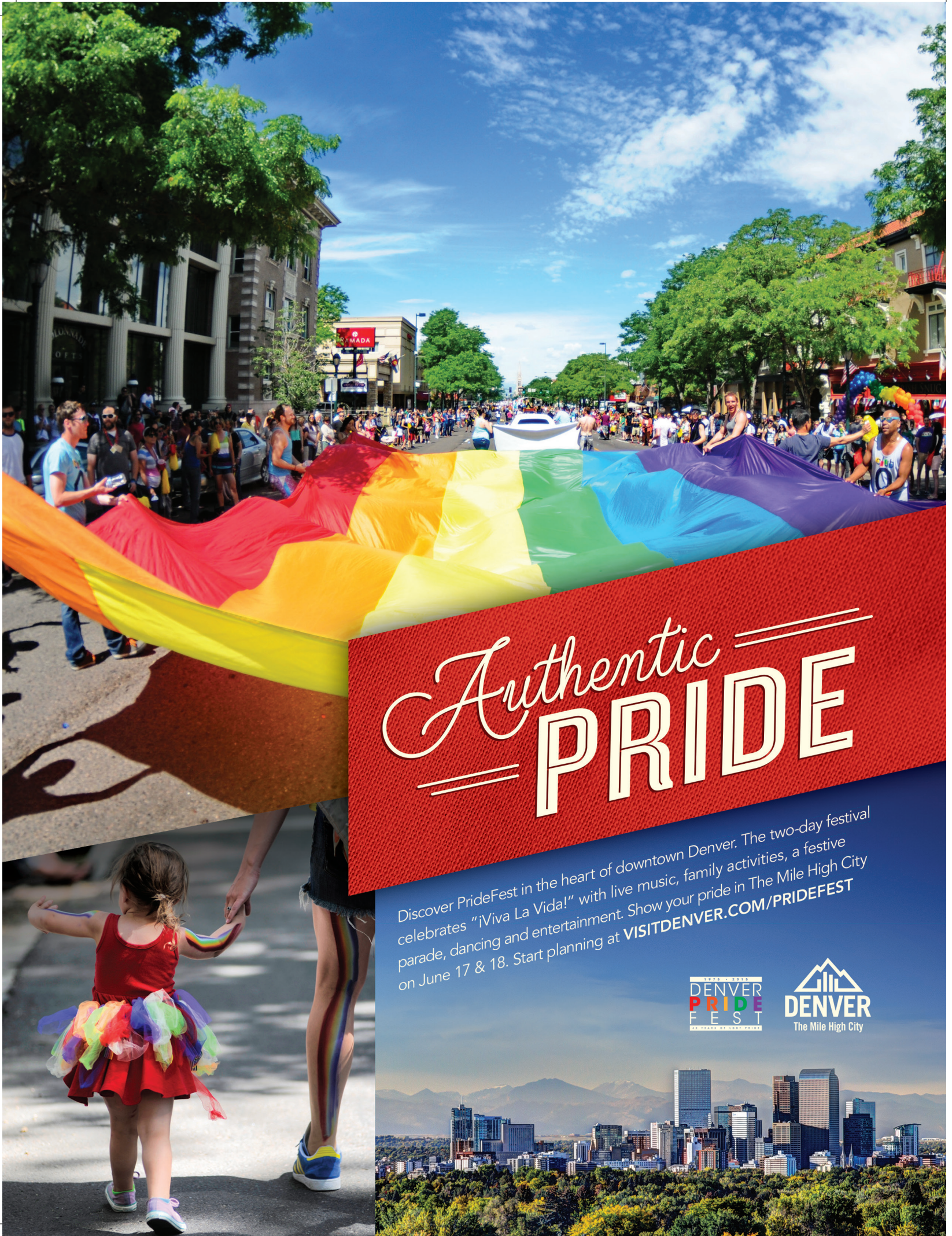
You are compensated fairly
for your time.

All gender identities,
sexual orientations,
races, and adults
over 18 are welcome.

Multiple studies are
enrolling right now.
Call **612-626-8680**
or email **tpresley@
umn.edu** to see which
one is right for you.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM



Authentic PRIDE

Discover PrideFest in the heart of downtown Denver. The two-day festival celebrates "¡Viva La Vida!" with live music, family activities, a festive parade, dancing and entertainment. Show your pride in The Mile High City on June 17 & 18. Start planning at VISITDENVER.COM/PRIDEFEST

1975 - 2015
DENVER
PRIDE
FEST
25 YEARS OF LOVE PRIDE


The Mile High City